

►► POLITICS P. 6



Speaker Emeritus stays busy

►► DINING P. 13



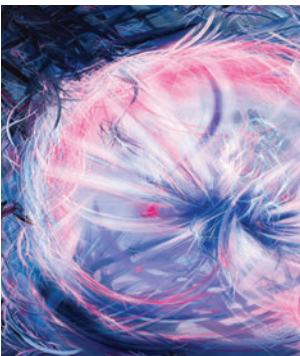
'Palace' secrets revealed

►► THEATER P. 17



How a new company formed

►► ART P. 25



Uptown artists at ArtWalk



"Life Is Whatever," a painting by Sarah Stieber on display at the Ashton Gallery on 30th Street, captures a scene at a bus stop in North Park. (Courtesy of Sarah Stieber)

WHEN SAN DIEGO INSPIRES ARTISTS

By Kit-Bacon Gressitt

Sarah Stieber paints life in San Diego as she sees it. She sees a colorful brilliance at a bus stop in North Park that others might miss, were it not for her painting, "Life Is Whatever."

"I call my painting style 'electric realism,'" Stieber said. "I think I invented that term to explain my vibrant use of color and the emotional energy in my paintings. Growing up in Southern California, there's a lot of vibrant social energy here. There's a sort of sun-soaked plasticity feel to a lot of social encounters — it's so Hollywood. So I really wanted to heighten

people's emotional experiences."

San Diego has long inspired visual artists. The local vistas and hues, the denizens and topography that define San Diego appear in a vast range of periods' works, from ancient pictographs to Depression-era sculptures to contemporary plein air paintings.

A new exhibit titled "Local Inspiration" features Stieber and other local artists and is on view at the Ashton Gallery, located at Art on 30th in North Park. The show, which includes paintings, photographs and

see Artists, pg 24



Architect Rob Quigley's rendering of the new Fire Station No. 5, seen from the intersection of Ninth and University avenues in Hillcrest (Courtesy of Rob Wellington Quigley Architecture and Planning)

Work to begin soon on Fire Station No. 5

By Catherine Spearnak

Construction on Hillcrest's new fire station at Ninth and University is expected to begin before year's end.

In November, the crew at Fire Station No. 5 will move into temporary quarters so the 65-year-old station at 4311 Ninth Ave. can be demolished and construction of a new station can begin.

The new firehouse is scheduled to open in March 2018. Demolition of the old station, which went into service in August 1951, is set to start as soon as firefighters move out. Fire Station No. 5 serves a 4-square-mile area that includes Hillcrest and surrounding neighborhoods.

More than a year ago, the long-awaited project stalled when temporary quarters planned

see Fire Station, pg 23

Heading to the finish line

Uptown Planners nearly done with Community Plan Update

Ken Williams | Editor

You can almost hear the fat lady singing. The Uptown Planners are putting the finishing touches on the Uptown Community Plan Update (CPU), and are expected to add final comments at the monthly meeting scheduled at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at Joyce Beers Community Center in Hillcrest.

Various issues involving the CPU dominated the Aug. 2 meeting of the volunteer advisory group to the city's Planning Department. Supporters and detractors of increased

see Planners, pg 4

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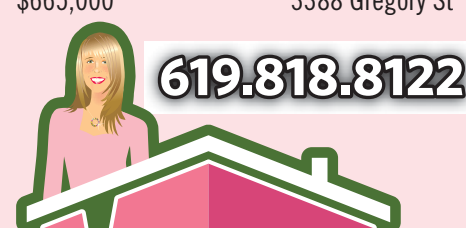
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U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (standing at right) speaks at the Hillcrest Town Council community meeting on Aug. 9. (Photo by Benny Cartwright)

Hillcrest Town Council update

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis visits, affordable housing discussed

By Mary M. McKenzie

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D-San Diego) paid a visit to the Hillcrest Town Council community meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 9, where she expressed an understanding of why many Americans appear angry with Congress.

She emphasized her resolve to continue to work on issues such as gun violence, Zika virus funding, a student debt solution, protecting voting rights, transportation and affordable housing, the theme of the night.

Davis welcomed questions from the audience and encouraged everyone to vote in November.

The main focus of the meeting was on affordable housing. Stephen Russell, executive director of the San Diego Housing Federation, presented data to explain the reasons for the dearth of affordable housing in San Diego.

The local market, he said, is characterized by comparatively low wages and high prices, putting houses out of reach of the majority of working San Diegans. Developers are over-supplying houses that are affordable only to those in the highest-income brackets, while demand for low- and median-income homes significantly exceeds the supply.

To solve the problems of affordable housing in San Diego, Russell said, more resources need to be dedicated to building affordable housing and developing supportive infrastructure. Increasing public recognition of the benefits of affordable housing is crucial to any viable solution.

Russell also dispelled an urban myth that the homeless in San Diego are coming here from other cities. In reality, he said, 70 percent of our homeless become street people while already living in the city.

Also at the meeting, representatives from several community organizations gave updates on neighborhood issues, including the upcoming plastic bag ban, the University Avenue Pipeline Project, and the statewide traffic



Stephen Russell, executive director of the San Diego Housing Federation, discusses the affordable housing problem in the city. (Photo by Benny Cartwright)

ticket amnesty program. The participants also heard briefly from former Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña, who urged residents to lend support to the homeless, and District 3 City Councilmember-elect Chris Ward, who thanked people for supporting his run for office.

The Hillcrest Business Association invited residents to support CityFest on Sunday, Aug. 13.

Also, the Town Council announced the appointment of Daniel Merk-Benitez as an at-large board member. He is an interior designer and a Hillcrest resident who volunteers at the San Diego LGBT Community Center and is

involved with AIDS Walk.

Next month's meeting of the Town Council is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Joyce Beers Community Center, located at 3900 Vermont Ave. in the HUB Shopping Center. If you're looking to get more involved in the neighborhood, the Town Council always welcomes new volunteers. If you have any questions, contact chair Kath Rogers at dognamed-annie@gmail.com. More information about the Town Council is online at hillcresttowncouncil.com.

—Mary M. McKenzie is secretary of the Hillcrest Town Council. ❖

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FROM PAGE 1
PLANNERS

density pleaded their cases to the Uptown Planners, and board members weighed in with their own thoughts about the update progress.

Also, about 50 residents of Middletown returned to Uptown Planners, seeking to clarify language in the CPU that affects their community in their ongoing fight involving traffic and safety concerns along India Street.

After a lively discussion, the local planners voted 10-4-1 to approve a motion to request the city to delete all references in the June 2016 CPU — the current proposal — to the removal of parking and/or sidewalks from India Street in the section from Palm Street to Washington Street. The motion also called for a written statement to be incorporated in the final CPU that the city will not add the removals in the final document, which is expected to be approved by the City Council this fall.

The CPU discusses the removal of parking and/or sidewalks from India Street as part of possible mitigation, but rejected the idea in tiny print on several graphics. Residents said parking was at a premium on India Street, and removal of any parking spots to add more traffic lanes was unacceptable.

About 100 Middletown residents attended the July 5 Uptown Planners meeting and described how they have observed speeding drivers as well as confused and lost tourists trying to find the airport’s consolidated Rental Car



Scenes from the communities served by the Uptown Planners (Courtesy of the city’s Planning Department)

Center, located at 3355 Admiral Boland Way. You can read that article at bit.ly/2aOqrXg.

Comments on CPU

At the end of the Aug. 2 meeting, Leo Wilson, chair of Uptown Planners, opened the floor for public comments on the overall CPU.

Several representatives of the Pernicano family — who own valuable land along Fifth and Sixth avenues in Hillcrest that includes a long-vacant restaurant carrying the family’s name — urged the Uptown Planners to keep the current recommendations in the CPU that allow for higher density along transit routes in the Uptown area. Those routes include Fourth, Fifth and Sixth avenues, Park Boulevard, University Avenue and Washington Street.

Sherman D. Harmer Jr., president of Urban Housing Partners and one of the people representing the Pernicano family, thanked the minority of the Uptown Planners who have argued against downzoning and criticized the majority who oppose

higher density.

“If your recommendation goes through, it’s a disaster to property owners,” Harmer said. “Nobody is going to build at 43 units per acre and with a 60-foot height limit.”

Harmer said the Uptown Planners were sending conflicting signals to the Planning Commission and the City Council by opposing great density when the city’s new Climate Action Plan (CAP) encourages density along transit routes.

Harmer is working with a group of property owners who have formed the Uptown Gateway Council. Members include Bennet Greenwald, Nick Totah, Lucy Burni, Charlie Jadallah, Ron Pelman, Gary Pernicano, KG Ventures, Lyda Cohen, Mike Johsz, Roger Arko, Chris Shaw, Ronald R. Bamburgun, Robert H. Schwab, Westcore Properties and Clara Wreidt, according to the hillcrestgateway.com website.

Ian Epley, a local architect and former member of the Uptown Planners, said he was glad the city dropped the historic core designation for Hillcrest in favor of the

Main Street America program. He also applauded the increased density supported along Park Boulevard, which matches up with what the North Park Planning Committee approved in its CPU. He noted that while Uptown Planners fought density and supported height restrictions, the city’s redevelopment dollars went to places like East Village and Little Italy.

Several members of the millennial generation spoke in favor of higher density and being able to live, work and play in the same neighborhood without ever having to own a car.

One speaker scoffed at the Uptown Gateway Council, saying they were only out for the almighty dollar instead of caring about local residents.

After the public comments were closed, members of the Uptown Planners got to talk about the process, which has been ongoing for almost seven years.

Tim Gahagan said he was concerned about increased density and traffic problems because transit and infrastructure aren’t keeping up with development.



Cindy Thorsen said she was disappointed about the lack of parks and the CPU shows a deficit for years to come.

Mat Wahlstrom slammed local business groups for wielding too much influence over the CPU.

Tom Mulaney said the CPU as written “will be a disaster” and predicted legal challenges if it is approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Roy Dahl railed against the process. “We didn’t get serious about the CPU until the past few months,” he said.

Leo Wilson said he is excited about what is happening in his neighborhood of Bankers Hill, which has tall buildings mixed in with private homes. He said Mission Hills was able to keep its village feel in the CPU. But he said he was sad about the ongoing conflict in Hillcrest between the business community and residents, calling it a “malignant sore” and a “battle zone.”

Michael Brennan, the secretary, said he was happy with the current CPU and said the plans for Park Boulevard “complements what’s happening on the North Park side” of the thoroughfare.

Dana Hook acknowledged that she is part of the board minority and said the CPU does not match up with the goals of the CAP.

Gary Bonner worried about the lack of parks and was disappointed the bicycle community wasn’t more involved in the CPU to push for filling in the gap on University Avenue on the east-west biking route. The business community fought to keep parking spaces instead of allowing protected bike lanes from First Avenue to the state Route 163 overpass.

Maya Rosas said she was in favor of density on the transit corridors and called downzoning “a step backward.” She supports the CPU as it is, and argued that growth is not a cancer.

Ken Tablang said he was standing with Rosas. “I love the way Bankers Hill is turning out,” he said.

Bill Ellig said he was a multi-modal person and bicyclist, but added that “it’s going to take more than transit to get people out of their cars.” He also said the update process was “rushed” to make a time deadline.

Other news

- The Uptown Planners also:
- Voted to clean up policies listed under “Community Revitalization” in the Economic Prosperity Element of the CPU. They deleted three policies involving local business district improvement associations and rewrote another policy to delete a reference to the Hillcrest Business Improvement Association. The rewritten policy supports the designation of Hillcrest’s core as a National Main Street project. Main Street America targets historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts like University Avenue in Hillcrest with efforts to catalyze reinvestment, create jobs and foster pride in the neighborhood.
 - Voted to send a letter to Planning Director Jeff Murphy and Kurtis Steinert Sr., an environmental planner specializing in the city’s CAP, to express concerns about the draft Environmental Impact Report

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FROM PAGE 4
VOTED

(EIR) and recommend the adoption of the Density Redistribution Alternative. The letter also offers resolutions on mobility and recreation, and asks several questions about the EIR and CAP.

- Voted to send a resolution to the planners pointing out that most of the provisions in the Urban Design Element of the CPU are too vague to be useful and should be rewritten for clarity.

- Listened to an informational presentation on the Uptown development impact fee (DIF) study by Frank January, a senior management analyst with the Planning Department. January asked the Uptown Planners to prioritize their wish list for community amenities such as parks and recreation facilities, a new library and fire station and mobility improvements. The wish list totals more than half a billion dollars in possible projects — and January stressed that the DIF collections won't cover but a fraction of the proposed community amenities. The issue was tabled to a subcommittee meeting scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at KTU&A Planning and Landscape Architecture, located at 3916 Normal St. in Hillcrest. The meeting is open to the public.

- Unanimously approved, via the consent agenda, the Tricanyon Townhomes, located at 2724 Reynard Way in the Middletown community. The project consists of a small lot subdivision creating five individual parcels and construction of five three-story residential units on a vacant 0.21-acre site. The project will incorporate roof-mounted solar panels sufficient to generate at least 50 percent of the energy needs of the townhomes.

- Heard chair Leo Wilson salute Uptown Planners board member Soheil Nakhshab, principal of Nakhshab Development and Design, for being unanimously selected by the City Council on Aug. 2 as the top bidder for a city-owned property that includes the historic Truax House. Nakhshab bid \$2.5 million for the property located at 540 W. Laurel St. and 2513/2515 Union St. He plans to preserve, restore and memorialize the Truax House, named for local LGBT leader Dr. A. Brad Truax, who used the house as a hospice to serve AIDS patients during the 1980s. According to a news release from City Councilman Todd Gloria, Nakhshab will dedicate the ground floor of the Truax House as a community center. The adjacent properties will be demolished and redeveloped with a mixed-use building that will feature a coffee shop, office space and residential units, 10 percent of which will be dedicated to very low income housing. The buyer also plans to work with adjacent property owners to provide public access to Maple Canyon.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdcnn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego.❖



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Interpreter pilot program is in works

Notes from Toni

Toni G. Atkins



As I visited constituents and community groups throughout my district during the legislative recess in July, one of the pieces of news from the Capitol that I was most excited to share was a development that didn't make headlines around California.

That bit of news was regarding a single line item in the new state budget that we passed in June. It was a \$3 million appropriation for a pilot project to study state funding for medical interpreters.

I've been aware of the need for medical interpreters since my time decades ago working in women's health clinics, which served low-income clients, many of whom didn't speak English as a first language. I'm fortunate to have a position in the Assembly that has allowed me to directly push for funding, and I'm very pleased that Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature agreed to include funding for this item in the 2016-17 budget.

In California, more than 40 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home



Speaker Emeritus Toni G. Atkins delivered hundreds of socks to Stand Down. (Photo by Morgan M. Hurley)

and almost seven million people are estimated to speak English less than fluently. When these Californians go to the doctor, they often rely on untrained staff, family members or friends to help them understand what their doctor is telling them about their healthcare.

Making important decisions about healthcare is difficult enough, but it becomes even harder when language barriers get in the way of full understanding. When critical information

gets lost in translation, it can lead to inadequate patient evaluation and diagnosis, as well as lack of appropriate and timely treatment.

Errors or misunderstandings can jeopardize patient safety and lead to unnecessary procedures and cost.

This is why we need to secure funding for medical interpretation services for low-income Medi-Cal clients who have limited English proficiency and need help understanding their medical practitioners.

Funding a pilot program is the first step toward ensuring true access to healthcare for every Californian using best practices for translation that gain patient compliance and trust.

The Legislature has been in the business of breaking down barriers, particularly when it comes to making sure that everyone in California has access to quality healthcare. The next barrier to fall should be the one blocking patients from a clear understanding of the health advice

their doctors are giving them.

I look forward to working on the details of the pilot program — this is truly the kind of issue that compelled me to run for public office.

Around the district: We have one more month of summer and my district has many options for free concerts and movies in the park. I love these shows. They are a great, family-friendly way to connect with the community and see talented local singers and bands, all for free. I hope you head out to Balboa Park, Normal Heights, North Park, Point Loma, University Heights or the Waterfront Park, soon! ... We have constant reminders that wild-fires are a danger to San Diego, for instance the recent Feather and Border fires. CalFire has a program, Volunteers in Prevention (VIP), to educate the public about the steps they can take to prevent fires. Volunteers help by attending fairs, parades and school events to share important CalFire tips. The program is doing an amazing job, because areas that use the VIP program have seen a 50 percent drop in child-related fires. To bring the program to a local school, or to volunteer, call 619-590-3100.

—Toni G. Atkins is the Speaker Emeritus of the California State Assembly. For more information, please visit her website, asmcd.org/members/a78 where you can sign up for her e-newsletter or get the latest news on legislation and other activities. You also may follow her on Twitter, @toniatkins.❖



By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the US

with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

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Issa suggests another shutdown

Congressional Watch

Andy Cohen



In 2013, enraged by their inability to repeal the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) after 50-plus attempts in Congress to scrap the first major healthcare legislation since Medicare, and just as the law was about to take effect, Congressional Republicans decided to send a message and refused to negotiate on a federal budget unless Democrats agreed to repeal the law in its entirety.

Nevermind that such a provision had zero chance at passing through a Democratic majority Senate and would never have survived President Obama's veto pen. The elimination of Obama's signature healthcare law was never going to happen.

So, from Oct. 1 – 16, 2013, the federal government was shuttered, with all but essential services shut down. National parks were closed. Government oversight agencies were closed. Vital inspections by the EPA and FDA were put on hold. 850,000 workers were furloughed and never recovered the lost income. Those who were required to work, such as law enforcement and other critical defense-related personnel, did so without any guarantee of when — or even if — they would be paid.

That shutdown cost the country roughly 120,000 private sector jobs, all while the country was

still recovering from The Great Recession.

Economists estimated that the U.S. economy lost between \$20 – \$24 billion in production and growth. And although House Republicans tried to blame the shutdown on the Democrats for not giving in to their hostage-taking tactics on Obamacare, the public at large blamed Republicans for the morass (which didn't stop them from significantly expanding their majority in the House and taking the majority in the Senate in the 2014 midterm elections).

So let's just stipulate that the 2013 government shutdown was a disaster — across the board — for a whole host of reasons.

Despite all this, **Darrell Issa (R-49)** thinks it would be a great idea if Congress shut the government down again if the FBI doesn't meet his demands and charge Hillary Clinton with a crime.

After a more than yearlong investigation by the FBI into the use of a private email server (by then-Secretary of State, now Democratic presidential nominee) Hillary Clinton, FBI Director James Comey — a Republican and George W. Bush appointee — announced that, although there were instances of "extreme carelessness," the investigation found no occurrence where Secretary Clinton "intentionally transmitted or willfully mishandled classified information," which would warrant criminal charges in the case. As such, Comey said, "our judgment

is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case."

Attorney General Loretta Lynch accepted the FBI's findings, and no indictment was brought.

Congressman Issa, who is not a lawyer, disagrees and believes that Clinton should have been indicted. He is so enraged, in fact, that he is now calling for a government shutdown over the matter.

"We should be willing to shut down the government if the president won't limit his power," Issa told SiriusXM's Breitbart News Daily.

Issa noted that the Republican Party had repeatedly been "willing to shut down the government over ending Obamacare and these other things," which are "small points compared to the actual balance of our republic." The implication here seems to be that President Obama somehow influenced the investigation to prevent the FBI from bringing an indictment, an accusation for which there is exactly zero evidence.

Some people will never learn.

However, there are signs that all hope is not lost for those wishing that Congress would manage to function in a productive manner. On July 14, Issa introduced the "Protect and Grow American Jobs Act," a bill that modifies how companies use the H1-B visa program.

The H1-B program allows companies to hire foreigners to fill vacant positions that require highly skilled workers. The

program required that incoming workers had the equivalent of a master's degree and received a salary of at least \$60,000 per year, a figure that has never been adjusted for inflation since its initial modification in 1998.

Companies whose workforce is consists of more than 15 percent of H1-B workers must show documentation that there were not enough American workers to fill those slots. It is a policy that has been widely abused in the ensuing years.

Issa's update eliminates the master's degree requirement, citing the ease by which many foreign workers can obtain such certification, and raises the salary requirement to \$100,000, making it more difficult to undercut American workers, particularly if the goal is to save money on salaries.

Currently the bill has seven co-sponsors, evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, including the entire five-member San Diego Congressional delegation (which consists of three Democrats).

"The high-skilled visa program is critical to ensuring American companies can attract and retain the world's best talent," Issa stated in a press release. "Unfortunately, in recent years, this important program has become abused and exploited as a loophole for companies to replace American workers with cheaper labor from overseas. The bill we've put forward is simple, bipartisan and will go a long way to fixing one of the many problems with our broken



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see Congressional, pg 8

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FROM PAGE 7
CONGRESSIONAL

immigration system."

"This commonsense fix updates our high-skilled visas to reduce abuse of the system and ensure a level playing field for American workers," said Scott Peters (D-52) in the same release. "I will continue to push for a bipartisan fix to our broken immigration system so we can create economic opportunity and enhance our security."

Duncan Hunter's (R-50) troubles continue to mount. Hunter's campaign finance irregularities have been extensively noted in this column over the past several months, leading to increased scrutiny across the board. The campaign recently hired a law firm specializ-

ing in political law to help navigate his growing legal problems.

Hunter has reimbursed his campaign \$12,000 for personal expenses in violation of federal law. However, an investigation by the San Diego Union Tribune found that neither Hunter, nor his family, had at any time since 2009, "reportable assets" in excess of \$1,000, calling into question the source of the \$12,000.

The Union Tribune also found that of the \$101,000 raised in contributions from 67 donors to his campaign since April 1, none came from within his San Diego area district, and all but six of his donors were from outside of California.

—Andy Cohen is a local freelance writer. Reach him at ac76@sbglobal.net.❖

GUEST EDITORIAL

Let Medicare help you stop smoking

By Cate Kortzeborn

It's never too late to quit smoking. While it's best to stop as early as possible, kicking the smoking habit at any age will enhance the length and quality of your life.

As soon as you stop, your body begins to repair the damage caused by smoking. You'll also save money and you won't have to run outside your home or office every time the urge to light up hits you!

Medicare now covers counseling sessions to help you stop smoking, even if you haven't been diagnosed with an illness caused by tobacco use. You pay nothing for smoking cessation counseling, as long as you get it from a doctor or other qualified provider who accepts Medicare reimbursement.

Many state Medicaid programs cover smoking cessation services as well.

Smoking tobacco can cause many diseases, including heart disease, respiratory diseases, and lung cancer — the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. More than 56 million Americans still smoke tobacco, but quitting can reduce your risk of getting these diseases.

So if you have Medicare or Medicaid, make a note to talk with your doctor about quitting. Medicare covers eight face-to-face smoking cessation counseling sessions during

a 12-month period.

What happens in these sessions? Your doctor may follow the "5 A's" approach: ask patients about their smoking habits; advise them to quit; assess their willingness to quit; assist their attempts to quit; and arrange follow-up.

To help you get off and stay off tobacco, your physician may prescribe one of seven antismoking drugs currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Medicare often covers such medications under its Part D prescription drug program.

What are the health benefits of not smoking? Here's what you'll experience, according to the American Lung Association:

20 minutes after quitting:

Your heart rate drops to a normal level.

12 hours after quitting:

The carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal.

2 weeks to 3 months after quitting:

Your risk of having a heart attack begins to drop.

Your lung function begins to improve.

1 to 9 months after quitting:

Your coughing and shortness of breath decrease.

1 year after quitting:

Your added risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker's.

5 to 15 years after quitting:

Your risk of having a stroke is reduced to that of a nonsmoker's.

Your risk of getting cancer of the mouth, throat, or esophagus is half that of a smoker's.

10 years after quitting:

Your risk of dying from lung cancer is about half that of a smoker's.

Your risk of getting bladder cancer is half that of a smoker's.

Your risk of getting cervical cancer or cancer of the larynx, kidney, or pancreas decreases.

15 years after quitting:

Your risk of coronary heart disease is the same as that of a nonsmoker.

I also want to mention that Medicare covers screening for lung cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography. To qualify, you must:

- Be age 55-77.
- Be either a current smoker or have quit smoking within the last 15 years.
- Have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 "pack years" (an average of one pack a day for 30 years).
- Not have any signs or symptoms of lung cancer.
- Get a written order from your physician or qualified non-physician practitioner.

You pay nothing for this screening if your doctor or other qualified provider accepts Medicare reimbursement.

For more information on kicking the habit, visit <http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/tobacco/help-quit-fact-sheet>.

—Cate Kortzeborn is Medicare's acting regional administrator for Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).❖

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OPINIONS/LETTERS: San Diego Uptown News encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email submissions to ken@sdCNN.com and include your phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and accuracy. Letters and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or staff.

SUBMISSIONS/NEWS TIPS: Send press releases, tips, photos or story ideas to ken@sdCNN.com.

For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The Truax House conundrum

By Charles Kaminski

What do you do with a piece of property that you no longer want and you consider surplus?

It has two houses on it: one occupied and one that hasn't been used in years.

The land connects to a nearby canyon and the site has some great views of the bay and could be considered prime real estate. You could probably get quite a good price on it if you sold it. There might be two options: sell it or develop it.

I think there also might be a third option: give it away or donate it for some worthy community benefit.

The property in question at Union and West Laurel streets in Bankers Hill is known as the Truax House and owned by the city of San Diego. For many in our LGBTQ community, and especially the survivors of the AIDS epidemic, the Truax House is considered to be a special place of significance. Almost sacred ground, if you wish.

As I write this, the choice has been made: It will be sold. The City Council made their decision this week and accepted an offer to buy the property from from Nakhshab Design & Development who has "... been an advocate for the preservation and historic designation of the Truax property ..." and who, if selected as the buyer, would like to incorporate a community space that "... could be used by community members, nonprofits, etc. ..." and who would "... be looking to the LGBTQ community and the Uptown Community for assistance with a memorial within this community space."

Officially opened by city and community leaders in March 1989, the San Diego AIDS Assistance Fund-sponsored house was named after Dr. Brad Truax, an early leader in San Diego's LGBTQ community. Dr. Truax was one of the first physicians to open a gay medical practice and who, for years, was also known for his political activism and leadership.

Dr. Truax initiated and coordinated the formation of the San Diego mayor's AIDS Task Force and was the first chair of the follow-on San Diego County Regional AIDS Task Force. Truax died of AIDS on Nov. 29, 1988.

I disagreed with the original decision by the city to declare the property surplus and offer it for sale. The city was in the midst of preparing an LGBTQ Historic Context Report that would identify those spaces and places that might be of significance to our community so that sensible land use and planning

decisions can be made.

Simultaneously, the city is implementing an update to the Uptown Community Plan, a specified area that includes the Truax House property. Neighbors in Maple Canyon looked at the property as a front door link back into the canyon. The San Diego AIDS Memorial Committee supported a sale in hopes that proceeds from the sale would support a permanent AIDS memorial in the city.

I had hoped a decision by the city on whether to sell the property would wait until the Context Report was finished, thus giving both the LGBTQ community and the Uptown community the time to develop a workable community benefit plan for the property.

Meanwhile on July 28, the City's Historical Resources Board determined that the Truax House, "... provided a sanctuary and vitally needed care to terminally ill individuals with limited resources suffering from AIDS, at a time when the AIDS epidemic was relatively new, poorly understood by the general public, and highly stigmatized ..." and officially designated the Truax House as an historical resource.

At the City Council meeting this week, Councilmember Todd Gloria specifically asked the proposed buyer about his commitment and intent for the property. Soheil Nakhshab reiterated his plans to preserve and restore the Truax House, dedicate the ground floor of the Truax House as a community center, incorporate a communal courtyard space, work with the adjacent property owners to provide public access to Maple Canyon and build sustainable housing project with a portion of the housing for affordable/low income housing.

Part of the City Council discussion and public comments included Gloria's commitment to work with Mayor Faulconer to find financing and a home for a San Diego AIDS Memorial.

These are lofty goals and appear to meet all the varied neighborhood, community and LGBTQ desires: preservation, memorial, community space, canyon access, affordable housing, etc. Now that the city has accepted the offer to buy the property, it will be up to all of us to monitor the proposed development as it works its way through the various city departments, though community presentations and reviews to ensure that the City and the developer keeps their words and promises.

—Charles "Chuck" Kaminski is a local LGBTQ historian and activist and a board member of the Lambda Archives of San Diego.❖

San Diego

Uptown News

Readers Poll

Poll results

Who will you support for president?

76% Hillary Clinton

24% Someone else

0% Donald Trump

New poll

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☐ Yes

☐ No

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LETTERS

Praise for KTU+A

Re: "Hillcrest firm leaves its mark on America's Finest City," Volume 8, Issue 15 or bit.ly/2aJMcsi.

Thank you so much for recognizing the contributions of KTU+A Planning and Landscape Architecture.

On behalf of San Diego Canyonlands, a nonprofit working to restore and enhance our city's wonderful urban canyons, I'd like to add yet another project to the long list of incredible philanthropic contributions KTU+A has made to better our communities over the years.

KTU+A's design work and tenacious/steadfast support during a two-year environmental review and permitting process will result in an exciting, five-mile "loop trail" system connecting four urban canyons in the under-served community of City Heights. Seven planned trail segments will help link neighborhoods, schools, transit stops, and businesses, and provide several, multi-canyon loop trail opportunities for joggers, hikers and youth programs using the canyons as nature classrooms!

KTU+A has already integrated this new trail system within a Green Street/Mobility plan for City Heights, making pedestrian trips for residents far safer and much more convenient.

Many thanks to KTU+A for their help in making this unique urban amenity a reality.

Because sometimes it takes a village, we would also like to thank Quality Infrastructure, RECON Environmental, Allied Geotechnical Engineers and biologist Dave Flietner for donating their fabulous consultant services to this City Heights Canyon Loop Trails Project.

—Eric Bowlby, executive director of San Diego Canyonlands

This praise for Mike and Sharon Singleton is well deserved. I've known them for 15 years because of their community involvement. When Mike represented Mission Hills on the Uptown Planners board, he held monthly community meetings in Mission Hills to get input on local matters coming before the board. He also organized things like entry monument design, tree surveys and tree plantings.

More recently I've served on the Hillcrest Community Development Corporation with Mike. He and Sharon and members of their firm have created temporary demonstration parks on Normal Street for cycling events, organized bike-to-work events, and donated thousands of dollars' worth of time and effort to work with the community to develop a park plan for Normal Street.

KTU+A Planning and Landscape Architecture and everyone who works there are as wonderful as you say they are.

—Sharon Gehl via our website

Chargers' stadium proposal

Re: Guest Editorial by Omar Passons, "A few truths about Chargers' stadium proposal Downtown," Volume 8, Issue 16 or at bit.ly/2aKNzpG.

Excellent points, Omar. Nicely done. But there is one critical

point missing here — and in most other analysis that I've seen: No independent study ever done by any unbiased observer has ever shown a football stadium to be good economic investment. In fact, it's a lousy one.

—David Ogul via our website, sduptownnews.com

As we know, government has three main jobs:

(1) **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Build and maintain our roads and bridges, which they have neglected for over 20 years. (They don't build buildings for small businesses, why would they do so for billionaires like Spanos)? Build and maintain public schools, libraries, public parks, etc.

(2) **SAFETY:** Police Department, Fire Department, military. Safety also includes helping the homeless get back on their feet by providing shelters for them ... and building public mental health facilities (shut down by Ronald Reagan!) for those having serious mental illnesses. Creating jobs for the unemployed.

All of this is what provides safety to the American people because, as research tells us, when people are destitute (starving, freezing, in pain from sleeping on concrete and sickness, ignored by society ... some even kicked and abused just for "being"), humans turn into animals. Many will steal, attack, threaten and trespass just to survive. And when humans lose all sense of pride, they throw their garbage wherever it lands, set up their survival quarters wherever they can (streets, alleys, parking lots, etc.) steal shopping carts and then leave them abandoned when finished, etc.

(3) **TAXES:** Government's job is to collect taxes in order to provide the above services. NOTE: Not only from the middle-class, but also from the wealthy ... many of them pay less taxes than the middle-class and poor because they can afford to hire accountants who find ways to write off everything ... even their private expenditures, not to mention their enormous corporate waste.

The government's three main jobs have been ignored for many years due to campaign-funding bribes by the mega-corporation-owned billionaires who in turn get their way when bills are passed, but America belongs to 320,000,000 people, not just 403 GREEDY billionaires.

—Ginger Sarmento via our website

I might want to add that having a NFL team in town, or having a Super Bowl every few years, does not add significant revenue to a city's income. If you see those figures that one Super Bowl event adds \$400 million to the revenue, take those numbers with a lot of caution. The actual figure might be a lot lower, but strangely enough, no one seems to be able to provide accurate numbers—which of course raises this flag!

However, the extension of the Convention Center is a must. Not only for Comic-Con but to attract larger conventions. San Diego is No. 19 on the list of who can host large conventions. This extension has to be continuous to the existing Convention Center.

The existing plans to not put that into considerations and are actually planning for an "annex" not an "extension." This has to change and have to call out the engineers and architects to get this planned stadium closer to the Convention Center. How? Start ignoring streets; tunnel them. Think outside the box of a stadium but in terms of maybe a coliseum that is close enough to the waterfront, can be flooded for boat shows, and is a natural extension of the existing space. If you want to do it and want to get the votes, think big and address the real needs.

Disclosure to those revenues generated by Super Bowls, NFL games, and conventions. Somebody has to be able to come up with real revenue figures that includes costs and benefits. Not just some inflated or deflated figure to float someone's boat.

—Bjorn Steller via our website

Irresponsible bicyclists

Re: "Pershing Bikeway moving forward," Volume 8, Issue 14 or at bit.ly/2aphTHU.

Right after reading your excellent article regarding the new Pershing Bikeway plan, my wife and I took the dogs down to Bird Park for a walk.

We were talking about the give-and-take between bikes and cars when suddenly five bicyclists blew threw the intersection of Pershing, Upas and 28th Street. They laughingly dodged the cars that had right of way and shot down Pershing in the middle of the street.

I've lived on 28th Street in North Park for 20 years and have rarely paid any attention to bikes, but after a SANDAG meeting at a neighbor's house a couple of months ago, I did. Once I started looking for them, I noticed that few, if any, obey the traffic laws. The only time a bicyclist stops at a stop sign or stop light is because if they don't, they'll be hit by a car. They ride on the road, then on the sidewalk, then on the road again, whichever is faster.

Once I started paying attention, I've been appalled. This, and other bikeway plans, seems to me to be rewarding rude, scofflaw behavior. If they won't stop at stop signs and stop lights, let's give them bikeways that don't have any.

Why aren't the existing traffic laws for bicycles enforced? Just recently I saw a police car with bike racks, in Kensington, stop a bike, and when the rider couldn't produce ID, they put his bike on the bike rack and told him he could claim his bike and his ticket with his ID. When did rewarding bad behavior become city policy?

On a side note, Mr. Carterette was at the neighbor's SANDAG meeting. When I asked if the planner, who designed this and other lane closers around the city, lived here and would enjoy his own plan, Mr. Carterette told me he lived in Carlsbad. It's sad to change the traffic patterns so much and not have to live with the consequences. No one in San Diego could have designed these plans?

—Michael Garrison of North Park



Come On
Get Happy!
Dr. Ink

The year was 2003, when waves of bar-hopping locals gradually began taking notice of a new hangout in Hillcrest that offered an alternative to beer and well drinks. Void of modern design elements, Wine Steals greeted with an unpretentious atmosphere filled with wood-barrel tables, mismatched chairs and sofas, and a lengthy bar clad in stone. With a retail wine section toward the back, it fueled a trend and remains a comfortable space for both novice and seasoned wine drinkers.

Over the years, and many visits later, Wine Steals has developed an extensive food menu that includes crafty pizzas named after grape varietals. Happy hour and other weekly specials have come into fruition as well. The former now includes nearly 35 wines by the glass, all at \$2 off regular price.

The same discount applies to select craft beers on tap, which didn't exist here in earlier days. (There's a much larger selection of suds by the bottle, but at regular prices.)

Also, pizza by the slice drops down by 50 cents, and appetizers are \$1 off during happy hour.

I recently took a couple of crapshoots on the cask wines that are offered in addition to the regular, dizzying glass program. Perched alongside an end of the bar, the cask harbors two reds and two whites on any given day.

First up was a malbec, a favorite of mine that my fellow wine lovers pooh-pooh when we gather here and purchase by the bottle. Hence, I usually succumb without protest to the common preference of cabernets, zinfandels and petite syrahs.



This release by Terra Rosa from Argentina didn't thrill me. It lacked the dark-berry notes inherent to a fine malbec, and ended with an astringent bite.

I moved on to Bliss Cabernet, a far better choice that offered richer fruit and a fair dose of complexity for the happy-hour price of \$5.50.

For the terminally undecided, the bartenders provide small tasters as a guide to the wines you like. Although as in any wine bar, by the time a customer exceeds four or five samples, etiquette has been broken.

Pizza slices in the offing that day included a vegetarian and meat version of something called the "Kayla," named after a customer, I was told. Served without sauce and on Wine Steals' classic thin crust, both featured a riot of colorful toppings that included bell peppers, feta cheese, arugula, cilantro and more. Mine became much busier and tastier with the additions of bacon and seasoned chicken.

Wine Steals attracts patrons of all legal drinking ages, resulting in a non-scene environment rare to urban establishments. Also, numerous drink deals exist outside of happy hour, per the printed menus scattered around the bar that deserve close study before those second and third glasses of wine take effect. ❖

Chalk lists show an ever-changing selection of wines and beers (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Wine Steals
1243 University Ave.
(Hillcrest)
619-295-1188
winestealssd.com
Happy Hour: 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 4 to closing on Monday (for cask wines and select beers only)

RATINGS

Drinks: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
A majority of the wine inventory is available by the glass, which usually totals about 35 choices. There are also four cask selections and various craft beers in the offing.

Food: ⭐⭐⭐⭐
Known for its creatively topped pizzas, the kitchen takes things a step further by offering two different off-menu slices that change each week, one meat, the other veggie. The styles have included chicken Caesar, baked potato, artichoke and more.

Value: ⭐⭐⭐⭐
Regular happy hour discounts include \$2.50 pizza slices, and \$1 off appetizers — plus \$2 off wines by the glass and select drafts. But additional promotions occur throughout the week at various times of the day. They include sangrias for \$5 and 33-ounce steins of beer for \$7.50 on Tuesdays; five wine tastings for \$5 on Wednesdays; 10 wine tastings for \$10 on Saturdays; and more.

Service: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Wondering what that Loca Linda Malbec or Bread & Butter Pinot Noir taste like before you buy a glass? Staffers have likely vetted them by the time they hit the shelves, and they're adept at sharing tasting notes while offering samples as you decide.

Atmosphere: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
A dog-friendly sidewalk patio that's excellent for people-watching leads into an unpretentious European-style atmosphere featuring wine-barrel tables, couches, a sizable stone-façade bar and a retail section.

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Salmon carpaccio at the new H2O Sushi & Izakaya in Hillcrest (Courtesy of Octopus Restaurant Group)

The Octopus Restaurant Group from Los Angeles has opened the much-anticipated **H2O Sushi & Izakaya** in the Hillcrest space previously occupied by **D-Bar**. Termed as a “Japanese gastropub,” the establishment brings to the table modern presentations of traditional Japanese cuisine served amid flashy design elements such as metal curtains, blue LED lighting, and a large screen projecting scenes of San Diego.

The bill of fare, which includes numerous small plates, offers everything from seasonal oysters and salmon carpaccio to fried squid legs and innovative sushi rolls. Flights of aged whiskey, sake bombs, crafty cocktails and other libations comprise the drink list.

Lunch and dinner are served daily, and happy hour is held from 3 to 6 p.m. seven days a week, and from 9 p.m. to closing Sunday through

The recently opened **Meraki Café** in University Heights is the only outlet in San Diego serving Fair Trade Equator Coffee, a coveted roast from San Rafael, California, lauded for its almond-cedar-nutmeg notes. The café’s owner, April Brandenstein, said her supplier confirmed she is the only local vendor carrying the beans since opening the business earlier this summer. Her menu also includes acai bowls, smoothies, gluten-free waffles, salads, toasted sandwiches and more.

In addition, Brandenstein and her wife, Katerina Gkiourdo, tend to a backyard garden that produces herbs for the café’s house-made coffee syrups and other menu items. Meraki, which features a dog-friendly patio, replaced **DeMi Café**. 1735 Adams Ave., 619-269-9618, merakicafesd.com.



Fresh herbs from a backyard garden land in foods and beverages at Meraki Cafe (Courtesy of El G.)



Another San Diego chef enters the arena of reality TV as Kevin Templeton of **Barleymash** in the Gaslamp Quarter competes on the Food Network series, “Beat Bobby Flay.” Templeton will prepare plates he dished up on the show at a screening party to be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at Barleymash. The food samples are free and there is no cover charge.

In the past year or so, a number of chefs from Downtown-area restaurants have appeared as contestants or judges on national competition cooking shows, including Chad White of the former **Comun Kitchen & Tavern**, Giselle Wellman of the new **Pacific Standard**, Richard Blais of **Juniper & Ivy** and **The Crack Shack**, and Javier Plascencia of **Bracero**. 600 Fifth Ave., 619-255-7373, barleymash.com.

The team at **Gossip Grill** in Hillcrest is calling it a “mini foodie lift” as Chef Nicole Urman prepares to debut several new dishes on Aug. 12 that will join its existing menu of American comfort fare.

“I want to breathe new life into our menu with foods that are trending now,” Urman said in a press release, referring to tater tot nachos, jalapeno-stuffed burgers, classic lobster rolls, and more.

The establishment, tailored to women who “play nice with the boys and everyone in between,” is part of MO’s Universe. It is open daily and features a full patio bar, restaurant, dance floor and VIP lounge areas. 1220 University Ave., 619-260-8023, thegossipgrill.com.



Sweet and savory crepes in North Park (Courtesy of Café Madeleine)

Café Madeleine has branched into North Park with a second outpost that is double the size compared to its South Park location. The space features ample indoor/outdoor seating and a larger kitchen for baking quiche and pastries for both locations.

Owner Christine Perez says several menu items unique to the new spot will be introduced by mid to late August. They include French baguette sandwiches, additional salads and specialty pastries. In addition, her original menu of assorted crepes is currently available.

A remodel to the space resulted in a Parisian-style façade, an espresso bar, and exposed rafters and trusses that were covered up when the building last housed a Cricket Wireless store. 2850 El Cajon Blvd., 619-693-5733, cafemadeleinesd.com



Lobster rolls and other new savories on tap at Gossip Grill. (Courtesy of MO’s Universe)



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Coming this fall to **Harrah’s Resort Southern California** in Valley Center is a Native American-owned brewery named **SR76** after State Road 76, plus **KJ Chinese Kitchen** and a smoothie bar. The additions are part of a \$14 million renovation to the resort, which will also make way for nearly two dozen “wellness-inspired” guest rooms featuring Vitamin C-infused showers, yoga mats and built-in ceiling speakers. The expansions are due for completion this fall.

Harrah’s is owned by the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians and was a major supporter of this year’s San Diego LGBT Pride weekend by sponsoring the festival’s main stage and adjoining VIP area. 777 Harrah’s Rincon Way, Valley Center, 760-751-3100, harrahresortsoutherncalifornia.com.

Rumor has it that **Caffe Calabria** in North Park will utilize its second-level banquet room for a potential cocktail lounge on Friday and Saturday evenings. The space, which is accessible from the rear of the restaurant, has been named **33 Trentatre**. It features a patio and a bar that recently returned to operation for private events as well as public wine tastings held from 6 – 9 p.m. every Wednesday. The café’s owner was not available for comment, although an employee indicated that the nightclub plans are currently being considered. 3933 30th St., 619-291-1759, caffecalabria.com.

—Frank Sabatini Jr can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.❖

SECRETS OF THE 'PALACE'

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



In an age when old-school Chinese restaurants are nearing extinction, I don't mind the occasional plate of chow mein that isn't up to snuff, or kitschy décor that appears more obligatory than authentic. Just give me gentle prices on dishes made to order, and with a little jar of fiery chili oil parked alongside, and I end up happier than what any fortune cookie might predict.

Such was the case at New Maxim's Palace, which has its perks and flaws, as well as mysteries.

Asian design elements of craft-store quality flow throughout an airy dining room that was clean and tidy. (The restroom, I must say, was particularly spotless.) Located in a fairly subdued strip plaza, we found ample parking.

Food portions are generous and prices are cheap, even after a minor cost increase recently imposed on combination meals available from afternoon until closing daily. The menu in general features all of the nostalgic classics — egg foo young, walnut shrimp, orange chicken, moo shu pork, etc. In addition, our waitress was efficient and sweeter than pie.

The restaurant's age and ownership, however, remain in question despite my attempts to uncover the back story. In three separate calls I made to the restaurant, I learned that a woman named Kelly might be the owner — or perhaps the manager — and that the restaurant is somewhere between 10 and 20 years old. Nobody knew for sure.

Kelly wasn't onsite when I phoned or visited, nor was she reachable through any means, an employee said. So I settled for the history described vaguely to us by our waitress, that the restaurant came under different ownership by an unspecified person or family a couple years ago, and the word "new" was prefixed to its name to differentiate it from the original Maxim's Palace.

We encountered no riddles with the food. An order of crab Rangoon featured eight, prettily crimped pastry shells free of grease. Their cream cheese centers, however, contained only miniscule shreds of meat. Unless you're dining in some posh Chinese hotspot in Hong Kong or New York, the chances of finding chunky pieces of crab inside this ubiquitous appetizer anymore are near zero.

A pair of chicken-vegetable egg rolls proved satisfying, given their crispy exteriors and plump fillings of mostly crispy, shredded cabbage. Served piping hot, we had to wait several minutes after splitting them open before they cooled down.

Three entrees we ordered ranged from exceptional to mediocre to sub par. Respectively, the barbecued-pork fried rice sported a highly desirable semi-toasted texture. Enriched substantially by



New Maxim's Palace

2810 El Cajon Blvd., Suite D (North Park)
619-284-8888

Prices: Appetizers, soups and egg foo young, \$2.75 to \$10.50; noodle dishes, fried rice and other entrees, \$9.75 to \$14.99

(Clockwise from top left) Moo shu pork; barbecued pork fried rice; crab rangoon; chicken chow mein
(Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

wisps of cooked eggs and julienne pork marked by sweet, barbecued edges, it's exactly the preparation Chinese kitchens throughout North America have been slinging for decades to lure us back.

Moo shu pork carried the coveted, smoky flavor from the wok as well as the raisin-like essence of hoisin sauce lacing the dish. But the meat was cut into bite-size pieces rather than minced, which is the preferred method for striking a texture consistent with

the finely shredded vegetables stir-fried with it. Also, the thin Chinese pancakes served traditionally alongside suspiciously resembled flour tortillas rather than delicate crepes. So moo shu burritos it was.

A heaping pile of chicken chow mein required every condiment on the table to rescue it from blandness. We created an admixture of equal parts soy sauce, feisty chili oil and neon-red sweet and sour sauce to enhance the flavor. It worked beautifully, probably better than monosodium glutamate (MSG) would have,

had we not requested that the controversial taste stimulator be omitted from our orders.

Because of New Maxim's vast meal selections, which encompass Cantonese, Mandarin and a few Szechwan-style dishes, it would take repeat visits to accurately evaluate the food and figure out who's running the place. Though based on this single meal, I suspect there are several more winners other than the chubby

egg rolls and fluffy fried rice hiding within the menu.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



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Thousands of people crowd into Hillcrest for the annual CityFest. (Courtesy of HBA)

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CITYFEST

Morgan M. Hurley | Contributing Editor

Once Pride is in our rear-view mirror every year, the community tends to start looking forward to CityFest, the annual street festival presented by the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA). This year’s event will take place Sunday, Aug. 14, from noon – 11 p.m.

Originally started 32 years ago as a way to celebrate the refurbishment of the iconic neon Hillcrest sign, CityFest has continued to “keep the party going,” and they still celebrate the sign, though in recent years the neon was swapped out for LED.

Taking over Fifth Avenue from the north side of University Avenue all the way down to Redwood Street, with various vendors spilling out in each direction of the cross-streets in between; CityFest offers attendees every style of artisan vendor; carnival rides; a kids zone; food from all over the globe; community businesses; four different artist alleys to showcase local artists; a beer garden (21+); live music all day long from noon to 8 p.m. and an all ages dance party under the Hillcrest sign starting at 8 p.m.

“In an effort to respect the current state of our drought we are swapping out our water slide and water elements for more festive carnival rides and games,” said Megan Gamwell, HBA’s marketing and communications director. “This year we are stepping up and bringing in more of your favorite carnival games and rides down on the south end of the event.”

One of the region’s longest-running street festivals, the popular event has also served as a de facto post-Pride celebration for the local LGBT community and anyone else

who wants to play along, which generally amounts to 150,000 attendees annually.

The main stage, sponsored by The Merrow, located at the corner of University and Fifth avenues, will again be the focal point, with live music planned from noon – 7 p.m.

“We host live music five to six nights a week and most of our shows feature San Diego acts so we’ve seen more local bands than you can shake a stick at,” said Dustin Lothspeich, talent buyer for The Merrow. “CityFest, to us, is ultimately about taking pride in our community and we love ‘living local’ as they say. These are all bands we love and want other people to experience as well — that’s why we’ve tapped them for the festival.”

Lothspeich further encouraged the community to get out and support local “grassroots” music at various venues in town. Some of the bands you will see on the main stage Aug. 12, will also be performing at The Merrow this month. So if you like what you see, head over to 1271 University Ave., for more.

The DJ music will be sponsored by Rich’s Nightclub in two locations: the Techniche stage, located on the south side of the festival, will have TechMyxxlpix, John Vilotti and K-Swift spinning from 1 – 6 p.m. The main stage area at University and Fifth avenues, will turn into an all ages street nightclub – with some of Hillcrest’s finest DJs spinning while the community dances the night away under the Hillcrest sign. K-Swift and DJ Taj will be playing sets from 8 – 11 p.m.

—Morgan M. Hurley is a contributing editor of San Diego Uptown News and can be reached at morgan@sdenn.com.

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The Merrow Main Stage entertainment to be rockin'

Commentary by Dustin Lothspeich

AJ FROMAN are this crazy progressive rock band that throws in a lot of psychedelic twists and turns throughout their music. Their frontwoman, Sarah Norwood, has such an incredible stage presence and literally hurls herself around the stage — they're just a great rock band in the vein of Led Zeppelin or Yes.

THE BAD VIBES play indie-rock with some psychedelic vibes and a blues/folk edge to boot; killer tunes galore and one of San Diego's hottest bands right now.

VIRI Y LOS BANDIDOS are fun — they play a spirited, unique brand of Latin-flavored rock/pop. Their frontwoman, Viri Damayuga, has a wonderful voice and they'll add quite a different flavor to the event, which we can't wait for people to hear.

BOYCHICK (who is fronted by Dani Bell of Dani Bell & The Tarantist) has an infectious indie-rock sound with a slight dance vibe. They're extremely fun.

RIP CARSON is a throw-back local singer/songwriter that recalls Roy Orbison or vintage Elvis. Great old-school, rockin' tunes that people can boogie to.

PAPER DAYS are one of the hottest up-and-coming bands in San Diego, playing a bombastic style of indie-alt rock. Their singer/guitarist, Niko Sitaras, is a natural born frontman: swagger for days. And they keep playing bigger and bigger stages like SOMA and House of Blues San Diego, while also snagging top spots at local fests like the Carlsbad Village Music Walk.

THE SHIFTY-EYED DOGS do a modern take on classic blues/rock n' roll which is sure to fire up both the casual music fan and blues aficionado alike.

And of course, **THE TIGHTEN UPS** were chosen because we've always supported Laura Jane and her crew and they're so fun to have at an event like CityFest — everyone loves 'em!

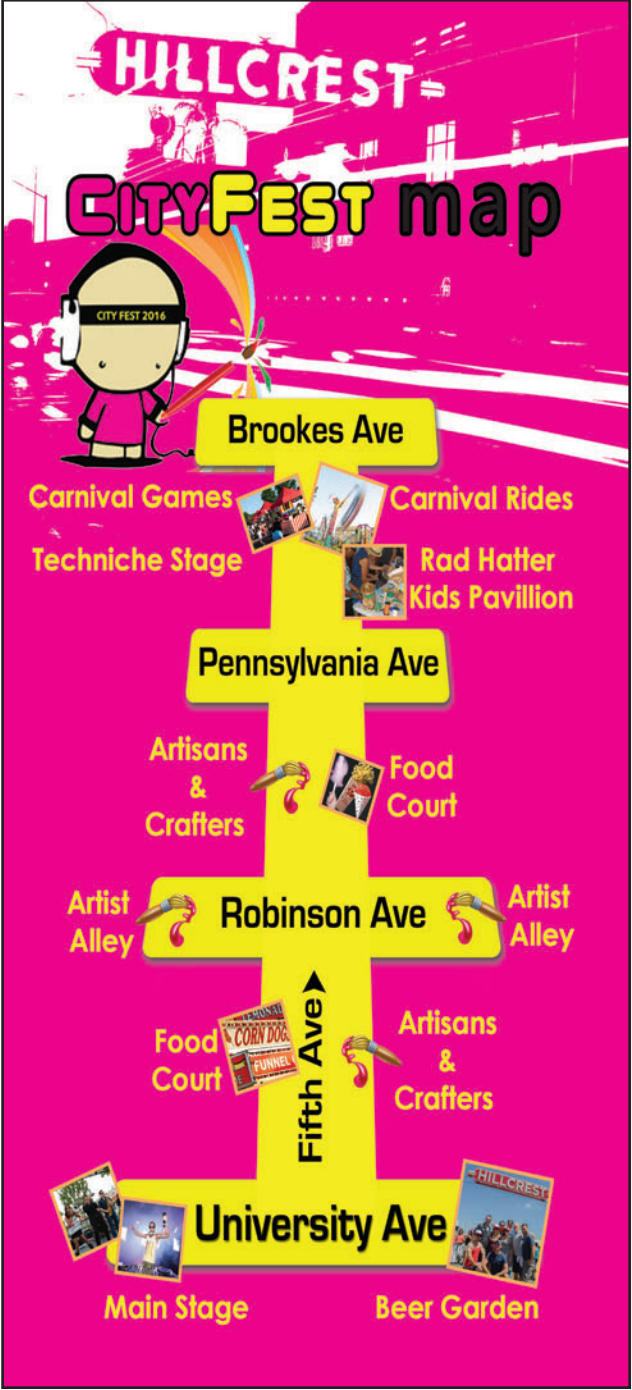
For more information, visit hillcrestcityfest.com.



The Tighten Ups to perform Sunday at CityFest (Courtesy of HBA)



Scenes from previous CityFest celebrations (Photos courtesy of HBA)



Internet Speeds: How much do you really need?

At its onset, Internet was relegated to dial-up connections that provided very slow speeds. Those old enough may recall the times of busy signals and interrupted connections due to shared phone lines. As technology changed, a broadband connection offered much higher speeds and uninterrupted connections. Extremely slow connections may be measured in kilobits per second (Kbps), although most speeds are now measured in megabits per second (Mbps). The higher the number of bytes you are able to download per second, the faster your connection.

In order to fully understand how Internet speeds work, let's define a few key terms:

- **Streaming.** Content you stream is audio or video data transmitted continuously and refers to the delivery method, not the data itself. Streamed content is not saved anywhere on your device.
- **Downloading.** When you download a file, whether it be a movie, a song or something else, the item is copied onto your device from another source. This is typically done over the Internet.
- **Uploading.** When you upload a file, you are copying it from your device to another location, such as uploading your weekend photos to your social media accounts.

Perhaps you stream, download and upload, maybe you only do one of these. There are several factors to keep in mind when determining how much Internet speed your household needs, including the number of users, the types of use (basic web browsing, media sharing, streaming content, file downloading, online gaming, video chat, cloud

storage, streaming music, etc.), frequency of use and the number of devices in your home. Keep in mind that even if you live solo, your home may have several devices connected to your home Internet, including mobile devices, TVs, gaming systems, laptops, tablets and other electronics.

- 10 Mbps speeds are good for light Internet users who check email and surf the Internet a few times a week and have one standard-definition television.
- 100 Mbps speeds are good for more advanced web browsing and watching high-definition video streaming.
- 300 Mbps speeds are good for gaming, teleconferencing, ultra-high-definition streams, and a household of high end users.
- Gigabit Internet speed is the next generation of broadband Internet service, delivering speed to power all your devices in the home at the same time, whether you're using your mobile devices, video streaming, gaming or have a home office.

What can you do with gigabit Internet speeds?

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How can I be sure I have the appropriate Internet speed?

Now that you have a clearer picture of Internet speeds and how much your household needs, it's best to consult an expert. Visit cox.com/speedtest and use the Cox Speed Advisor tool for a customized look at your needs or visit a Cox Solutions store today to discover the Internet speed package that's best for you. You could save time, money and bandwidth!



Director of Product Marketing, Ryland, is always happy to share tips on Internet speeds and so are Cox in-store representatives. Visit the Cox Solutions Store in Hillcrest today at 1220 Cleveland Ave. or call (619) 780-0800 for more information on Internet speeds.



Expect carnival rides at CityFest. (Courtesy of HBA)

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(clockwise from top left): Pascale Armand, Jonny Orsini, Kristen Connolly, and Kieran Campion. Photo by Jim Cox.



(clockwise from above) Linda Libby in Ethel Merman's iconic role; Manny Fernandes, Libby and Allison Spratt Pearce; a showpiece scene with fan girls; Pearce and Libby play daughter and mother (Photos by Ken Jacques)



A Rose is a rose

Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



Many critics claim that "Gypsy, a Musical Fable," the 1959 Broadway musical loosely based on Gypsy Rose Lee's memoirs, is the perfect musical to emerge from the last half of the 20th century.

It has a book by Arthur Laurents, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and music by Jule Styne. Readers may judge for themselves through Sept. 4 at Cygnet Theatre in Old Town as performed by a company of 25 and a band of six, including conductor/keyboard Terry O'Donnell.

Several things are evident: "Gypsy" has an iconic role in Gypsy Rose Lee's mother, Rose (originally played by Ethel Merman); it contains a poignant, unrequited love story; it has a dandy musical score that advances the plot; and it has one of the greatest 11th-hour songs ever written ("Rose's Turn").

If women had them, "Gypsy" would be a ball-buster: It is exceptionally demanding vocally and decidedly iconic. Rose is quite simply a lioness training, guiding and propelling her not-so-talented kittens, Baby June (Katie Whalley Banville) and Louise (Allison Spratt Pearce) into vaudeville. In real life, June became actor June Haver and Louise, the world-renowned stripper, Gypsy Rose Lee.

Seeing a production played by anyone other than a splendid Rose is an excruciating experience, fraught with worry. Linda Libby is a top performer in any production anywhere (she performed the role at ion theatre in 2011). The woman has the supreme acting chops, the vocal



capacity, and, yes, the balls to bring it off in Murray's meticulously cast production.

One may worry about certain areas of potential vocal strain, especially amid a vigorous schedule such as Cygnet's (seven performances each week), but there is

"Gypsy, A Musical Fable"
By Arthur Laurents,
Stephen Sondheim and
Jule Styne

Directed by Sean Murray
Wednesdays through
Sundays, through Sept. 4

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4040 Twiggs St.
Old Town State Park
Tcygnettheatre.com
619-337-1525

never a doubt that experiencing Libby's performance is mountaintop, and all one can do is sit, awestruck in the dark.

Manny Fernandes is priceless as Herbie, the love-smitten manager of Rose's vaudeville troupe. He sticks with her and the kids through their childhood, providing stability and common sense. He stays long after his hopes of marrying Rose are dashed, throughout the prolonged death of vaudeville, and after the departure of June.

Finally, once Herbie witnesses the appalling desperation of Rose's hopes for Louise (Allison Spratt Pearce), he leaves.

The kids, young and older,

are buoyant and believable, with Danny Hansen outstanding in the adult role of Tulsa, the dancer who strikes out on his own and elopes with June.

David Kirk Grant excels as all the fathers, uncles and impresarios, and finally as the jaded strip-show stage manager where the act finally breaks up and Louise/Gypsy makes the talent and personality transformation that allows her to become a singular star on her own.

Marlene Montes, Kendra Truett, and Marci Anne Wuebben score indelibly as the trio of strippers that encourage her with "You Gotta Get a Gimmick."

Other songs are "Let Me Entertain You," "Some People," "Small World" "Together, Wherever We Go," and "Everything's Coming Up Roses."

Sean Fanning creates a snazzy proscenium scenic design replete with footlights; David Brannen is choreographer; Jeanne Reith, costume designer; Peter Herman, wig and makeup designer; Chris Rynne, lighting designer; and Dylan Nielsen, sound designer.

Other performers are Scotty Atienza, Emily Sade Bautista, Josh Bradford, Max Cadillac, Giovanni Cozic, Gabriella Dimmick, Sophia Dimmick, Hanz Enyeart, Matthew Garbacz, Hourie Klijian, Dallas Perry, Claire Schepher, Bailey Sonner, Lauren King Thompson, and Catalina Zelles.

Over the long life of "Gypsy" — film versions and numerous stage productions worldwide — there have been many endings, with or without dialogue, that leave doubt, or no doubt, as to whether Gypsy and Rose reconcile after Rose admits she was wrong and did it for herself in "Rose's Turn."

Libby made me sob, and I doubt I was the only one.

—Charlene Baldrige has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlenebaldrige.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com. ❖

ASK KATHY: A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

Kathy McSherry



Hi Kathy:

I have been renting for the past two years and I have saved enough money for what I think is a reasonable down payment for a small condominium that I would qualify for. I have been told that the better my credit, the better interest rates that would be offered to me from a potential lender. I think my credit is somewhere around 705. Is it true that if my score were to raise to 740 or better, I would be eligible for the best interest rates? If so what can I do to raise my credit score?

Sage H.

Hi Sage:

You are definitely not alone when it comes to understanding one's credit or FICO score. Basically, your credit score is a complex formula that projects the probability of a person being 90 days late or more on any given account. According to FICO.com, there are 5 categories that can determine your FICO score: Payment History accounts for 35%, Amounts owed accounts for 30%, Length of credit history or average age of your credit file accounts for 15%, new credit accounts for 10%, and the types of credit used accounts for about 10%.

Assuming you are referring to a conventional loan with 20% as a down payment, a score of 740 or above will get you the best interest rates.

According to Frank Kriticos, credit expert at San Diego Credit Solutions, here are some tips you can do right now:

- Check your credit report. Get a free copy and really scrutinize it. Check for past and current addresses and any creditor that is showing. Check its history and accuracy. Dispute any item that is incorrect.
- Set up payment reminders so that you are on time.
- Reduce the amount of debt you owe.
- Pay your bills on time.
- If you have missed payments, get current and stay current.
- Be aware that paying off an account will not remove it from your report.
- Keep balances low as high outstanding debt can lower your score.
- Don't open a number of new credit cards that you don't need in order to increase your available credit.
- Do your rate shopping for a given loan, when they have to pull credit, within a given time. FICO distinguishes between a search for a single loan and a search for many, in part by the length of time over which the inquires will occur.
- Re-establish your credit if you have had problems.
- Apply for credit only as needed.
- Have credit cards but manage them responsibly.
- Enlist in the aid of a professional credit expert.

Sage, the benefits of a healthy credit will be with you for a lifetime. Taking the time now can save possible frustration later.

"Credit is like a looking-glass, which when once sullied by a breath, may be wiped clear again; but if once cracked can never be repaired." Sir Walter Scott

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker West. Email questions to her at askkathy@outlook.com

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'New kid on the block'

Introducing the fledgling Backyard Renaissance Theatre

By Charlene Baldridge

In 2001, beautiful and talented actor Jessica John founded a homeless gypsy theater company called Backyard with her friend, actor Lauren Zimmerman Wilson. Sound: A whoosh of water under the bridge.

At precisely the same time, a talented San Diego newcomer Francis Gercke, a graduate of The Actors Studio Drama School at the New School for Social Research in New York, co-founded New Village Arts Theatre (with his then-wife Kristianne Kurner), now located in the village of Carlsbad. Whoosh of more time: John and Gercke, who'd been paired extensively together on-stage, married.

In 2015, they founded their own gypsy company, Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company. He is artistic director and she executive director, producing two shows, "Parlour Song" and "The Elephant Man," co-produced with Oceanside Theatre Company and starring Gercke and John.

Watch out San Diego and Diversionary Theatre: With Gercke and John acting as producers, Backyard Renaissance has gathered significant forces and will present the San Diego premiere



(above) Anthony Methvin (left) and Tom Zohar; (below) Jessica John and Francis Gercke with their furry friend (Courtesy of Backyard Renaissance Theatre)



of the off-Broadway musical spoof, "Gutenberg! The Musical!" in which Bud and Doug think they've written the greatest musical of all time — a big, splashy,

song-and-dance spectacular about the inventor of the printing press, Johann Gutenberg. The audience plays backers and an audition where Bud and Doug play all

30 roles, and hopefully find a big-time producer to make their Broadway dreams come true.

The piece is staged by Kim Strassberger, who recently co-directed (with Claudio Raygoza) Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park With George," a co-production of San Diego Museum of Art and ion theatre company. She also directed Diversionary's "A New Brain," which starred the guys in her upcoming show.

Starring in the two-person off-Broadway musical are spectacularly talented San Diego theater artists Anthony Methvin and Tom Zohar (they just celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary) — and there's a story worthy of a book musical. Having received much acclaim for his San Diego area performances in productions at Diversionary, La Jolla Playhouse, Cygnet, Moonlight, New Village Arts and more, singer/actor/pianist/composer Zohar took off for New York City in 2010, determined to knock 'em dead with a round of auditions and become a Broadway Baby.

"I met him a week after he arrived," actor/singer Methvin said. They fell in love and married, and as time went by became increasingly burned out with life in the Big Apple. So they decided to continue their life as a married couple somewhere else, somewhere more humane. Where better than San Diego?

The first show Methvin did after his arrival was the world premiere of "Harmony, Kansas" at Diversionary Theatre. Zohar was in the company, too. Then

they got to play opposite one another in "A New Brain," also at Diversionary, where Anthony works as programs and events manager.

"It wasn't until we moved to San Diego that I was able to really feel a part of the theater community and make my living in the theater," Methvin said. "I feel more creatively energized here than I ever did in New York City."

Currently, Methvin is shifting his focus from dramaturgy to directing, having assisted at The Old Globe, Cygnet and Diversionary. He is also in the early stages of writing a new play.

Asked how two similarly gifted men manage to get along, Zohar said, "Anthony and I are creative in different ways. We don't always get along perfectly — but I feel that would be boring. We work in different ways, but I think that's a good thing. He's a lot smarter and more calculated than I and likes to think everything through. I just go with instinct and throw things at the wall to see what sticks. But in the end we have a good time together and it works out."

"Gutenberg!" was a 100 percent Anthony find," he continued. "It's a big musical theater parody so the music varies and can sound like anything from 'Phantom of the Opera' to 'Music Man' to 'Wicked.'"

—Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. Follow her blog at charlenebaldridge.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.

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FROM PAGE 10 LETTERS

More trash cans

Re: "Letters to the editor: July 15," Volume 8, Issue 15 or at bit.ly/2aKQMOL.

I agree with you Olivia! Excellent argument. You used very compelling examples of why trash and litter is a problem.

Do you know what city agency is responsible for trash cans in parks? It would be great if you sent this letter to them.

—Katherine Carter via our website

Yes, revitalize Hillcrest

Re: "Gilman talks about his property and Pernicano's," Volume 7, Issue 19 or at bit.ly/1OcQ690.

I live within a few blocks of Pernicano's and support the development of this block to revitalize Hillcrest and to bring in a development that will help support the local businesses that cannot survive and thrive under the current conditions. Bankers Hill is going to be the place to go in the future while Hillcrest erodes away!

—Brent Butler via our website

Stop air pollution

Imagine having to live in a place where there is air pollution. You can't stop coughing, your eyes are itchy, your throat is dry, and it's hard to even breathe.

If humans make too much air pollution by smoking or making smoke-bellowing factories, we could all end up getting hurt. Here are some reasons why air pollution is bad for living things, and why we should stop producing smoke.

One reason air pollution is bad for living things is that humans can get hurt. One example shows that it damages human bodies, their liver, brain, nerves or kidneys. Also, from this, more than 30 million people die every year; in addition to this, more than 42,000 people die each DAY.

If you smoke, you can get a sickness called cancer, which is a very bad disease that can kill you. If you smoke, there is a high chance of getting cancer.

Also, if you are around air pollution too long, you can get asthma, which is a condition that can make it difficult to breathe. Asthma is the inflammation of your airways, and your airways get clogged and block air from getting out.

Another reason is not only do we get sick from air pollution, animals and pets can get hurt by air pollution too! If a house pet is around smoke too long, they have a risk of getting a tumor — a swelling of a part of the body, and caused by an abnormal growth of tissue. If a pet owner smokes, it has two times the chance of getting a disease like cancer. Animals dying can be bad because if pets die, some people might not be able to have company or help to do things. I once heard that pets can be best friends, they can give you company, help you do certain things, guard you, and more. But if you smoke, it can make animals die, which could put some people at risk.

You know how you go to the zoo and there is an animal you love? For instance, I love monkeys. If you smoke, animals can get sick from it and die. Once, a monkey had cancer and died. So please don't smoke. This is a message to warn people of all the animals that have died from cancer and air pollution. No smoke is equal to having more furry animals around us.

Most of all, the Earth is damaged by air pollution because of global warming. If too much smoke comes up, it is trapped and will heat the Earth. When global warming gets too hot, the Arctic melts, especially in the summer. If all the ice melts, the world might not have balanced heat and something could happen to Earth.

All we have to do is stop creating smoke. It's a very simple thing to do. Here are some solutions: People can stop creating factories that make smoke and find better ways to create things. Another solution is to help people stop smoking, which is another source of air pollution. Another thing we could do is increase the cost of cigs so less people might buy them. Less cigarettes leads to less sick people and less air pollution. If humans make too much air pollution, who knows what the world will become?

—Rowen Kin, a student from University Heights

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1	9			2			6	
6			4			5		
			7	5		9		
5			2					6
	3	1		6		2	8	
2					7			5
		7		8	2			
		6			1			2
	8			9			5	1

9/6

Sudoku Puzzle

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Puzzle answers on page 20

Uptown Crossword

Colorful Diet



CREATOR'S NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Infant
5 Gem weight
10 Semitic deity
14 She: Fr.
15 Dispatch boat
16 Killer whale
17 Twirled
18 Irrelevant diversion
20 Compass pt.
21 Dry
22 S. Am. mountains
23 Charges
25 New Haven college
27 Silverfish
29 Came after
33 Characteristic practice
34 Foolish
35 Hurry
36 Globes
37 Mulish
38 Stay
39 Western Indian
40 Tugs or pulls
41 Paired
42 Nail size
44 Goofs
45 Seaweed
46 Sousa specialty

47 Variegated quartz
50 Ascend
51 Unit
54 Certain legumes
57 Took to court
58 Work for
59 Vestment
60 On the bounding main
61 Peasant, in India
62 Dogma
63 Duration

DOWN

1 Former first lady
2 European mountains
3 First prize
4 Longing
5 Metier
6 Declares
7 Take the bus
8 Ember remains
9 Digit
10 Island in the Malay Archipelago
11 See 21 Across
12 Skin ailment
13 Falls behind
19 Acquire fresh vigor
21 Proofreader's direction

24 Cuckoo-like birds
25 These are never used in angel food
26 Cohort
27 Fire, as a gun
28 Writer Bret ____
29 Young female horse
30 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
31 Kind of duck
32 Acts
34 Finnish bath
37 Gun sound
38 Judge's seat in court
40 Feminine name meaning bright one
41 Additional
43 Plain
44 Kind of hound
46 Chop
47 Maturing agent
48 Between black and white
49 Air: prefix
50 Weather word
52 ____ -do-well
53 Dutch cheese
55 Flying mammal
56 Uncle: Scots
57 Calendar abbreviation

Puzzle answers on page 20

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku
Puzzle from page 19

1	9	5	8	2	3	4	6	7
6	7	3	4	1	9	5	2	8
8	2	4	7	5	6	9	1	3
5	4	9	2	3	8	1	7	6
7	3	1	9	6	5	2	8	4
2	6	8	1	4	7	3	9	5
4	1	7	5	8	2	6	3	9
9	5	6	3	7	1	8	4	2
3	8	2	6	9	4	7	5	1

Colorful Diet
Crossword from page 19

B	A	B	A	C	A	R	A	T	B	A	A	L			
E	L	L	E	A	V	I	S	O	R	C	A				
S	P	U	N	R	E	D	H	E	R	R	I	N	G		
S	S	E		S	E	R	E		A	N	D	E	S		
		R	A	T	E	S		Y	A	L	E				
S	H	I	N	E	R		F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	
H	A	B	I	T		S	I	L	L	Y		H	I	E	
O	R	B	S		B	A	L	K	Y		B	I	D	E	
O	T	O		H	A	U	L	S		M	A	T	E	D	
T	E	N	P	E	N	N	Y		B	O	N	E	R	S	
		A	L	G	A		M	A	R	C	H				
A	G	A	T	E		R	I	S	E		O	N	E		
G	R	E	E	N		B	E	A	N	S		S	U	E	D
E	A	R	N		A	M	I	C	E		A	S	E	A	
R	Y	O	T		T	E	N	E	T		T	E	R	M	

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Manager Erica Bushu (holding the scissors) and Dunn-Edwards Paints team members celebrated the grand opening of the North Park store on Aug. 11. (Photo by Amber Jones)

Dunn-Edwards Paints opens store in North Park

By SDCNN Staff

Dunn-Edwards Paints hosted a grand opening on Thursday, Aug. 11, for its new store in North Park.

The store, located at 2011 El Cajon Blvd., offers a complete line of architectural paint, painting supplies and equipment, free delivery services with no minimums, will-call services and

credit accounts.

Dozens of guests at the grand opening enjoyed a free catered lunch and participated in a contractor drawing for chances to win a spray pump, a flat-screen TV, Dunn-Edwards gift cards, gift cards and more.

Dunn-Edwards is the one-stop paint shop for both contractors and do-it-yourselfers, offering everything a painter needs for

projects large or small. Dunn-Edwards is the only major paint manufacturer to have removed ethylene glycol from their paints, which the company voluntarily did more than 20 years ago. Based in Southern California, the company has more than 125 stores and about 1,500 employees.

For more information, call 619-786-1106 or visit dunnedwards.com.



(Clockwise from upper left) At the Dunn-Edwards Paints store in North Park are assistant managers Julian Isaac, Michelle Hendrickson and Jess Diehl with manager Erica Bushu; sales representative Peter Prado; and a prize winner celebrates with a little dance (Photos by Mike Rosensteel)

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Georgia Street Bridge: too beautiful to lose

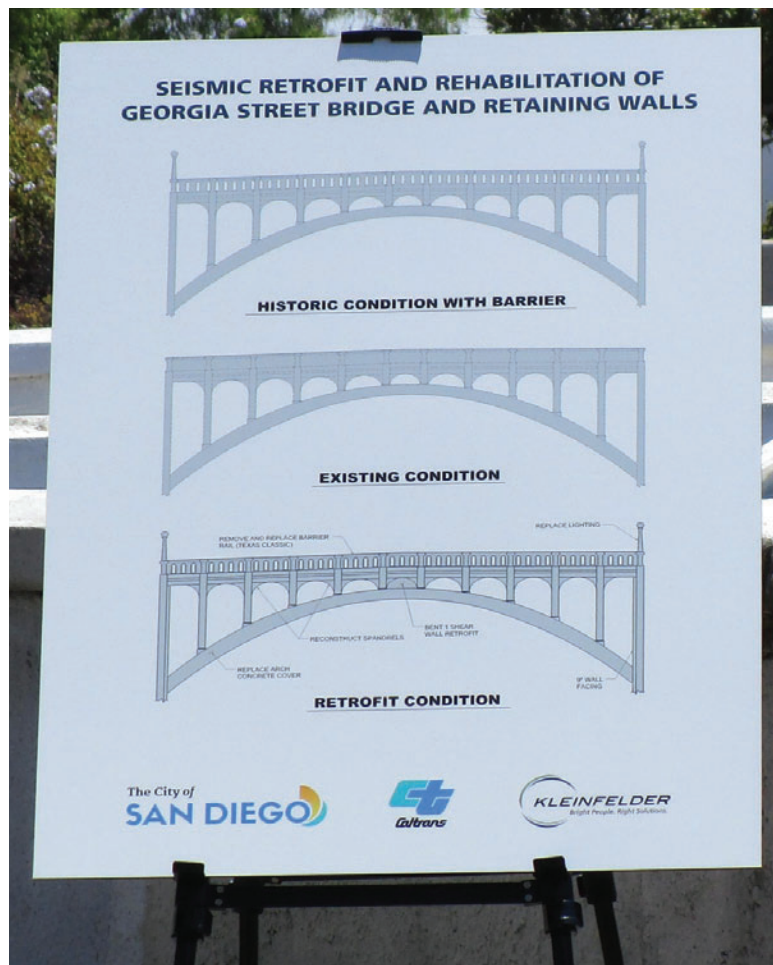
PastMatters Katherine Hon

It's no secret that the North Park Historical Society loves the Georgia Street Bridge. It has been our logo since we formed in 2008 and is on the cover of our latest book, "Images of America: San Diego's North Park." So we are understandably nervous about the bridge seismic retrofit and rehabilitation project now underway. There is a lot of work to do before the bridge is returned to its original glory about one year from now.

The three grand arches that span 66 feet over University Avenue will be preserved, but the rest of the bridge will be rebuilt from those arches upward to look like it did when it was originally built in 1914, including light posts and open-style railing on top.

To increase vertical clearance and protect the bridge from being hit by tall trucks, University Avenue will be grinded/excavated down 2.5 feet. In preparation for that street lowering, electrical utilities were previously lowered and a new water line segment was installed. (Remember that traffic disruption? It's going to be déjà vu all over again!) The vertical walls will be reinforced with soil nails and then refaced to look like when the walls were new and not all gunked up with shotcrete.

The project's total cost is about \$14 million, and most of the funding has come from the Federal



This board displayed at the construction groundbreaking event on July 19, shows original (top), existing (middle), and future retrofitted (bottom) views of the bridge. (Photo by Katherine Hon)

Highway Administration through Caltrans. Yes, you can count Caltrans among the community heroes who value the historic bridge and worked hard to make

this rehabilitation project happen.

The bridge has needed major repairs for decades due to excessive overlays of asphalt on the deck and drainage problems that

allowed water to seep into the spandrels and corrode the interior rebar and concrete support system. But when the proposed solution in the 1990s was to demolish the bridge and replace it with something cheap and simple, the community vigorously objected. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, thanks to the extensive research and detailed application prepared by historian Alexander Bevil on an all-volunteer basis as his gift to the community. With that national standing, the bridge replacement project died.

Fast forward to 2008. The city of San Diego initiated an engineering study and alternatives analysis for seismic retrofit of the bridge and walls, with funding to be provided through Caltrans. Because the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places, and because Kevin Hovey, the Caltrans person in charge of coordinating local projects, loves historic bridges, Caltrans agreed to help fund the bridge project only if the bridge would be restored in accordance with Secretary of Interior Standards. This meant preserving as much of the original bridge as possible and rebuilding the rest to its appearance when it was completed in 1914.

Is the bridge worth all this time and money to restore? Because it is a landmark, a gateway and a symbol of the streetcar expansion that opened our community to urban development, the North Park Historical

Society thinks so. Many others in the community would say yes, including elected officials Councilmember Todd Gloria, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, California Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni G. Atkins, and U.S. Rep. Susan A. Davis, who all spoke at the July 19 groundbreaking. But don't take their word for it. Let's ask some fifth-graders.

Several years ago, while the bridge was being studied, two classes of McKinley Elementary School students wrote about what the bridge means to them. Alyssa told the engineers, "I think we should save the Georgia Street Bridge because it has been there for many years. ... It has been here since 1914 and I remember it since I was little. Whenever I'm at the bridge it reminds me that I'm almost at my cousin's house. And I think that instead of changing it you could restore it."

Jasmine told them, "If it goes down our history will not be the same. Once our history is lost, it's gone forever."

Keith pointed out the unique architecture of the bridge, saying that it is "an amazing sight to behold. That my friend should stay and be appreciated by all of North Park people. It is too beautiful to be gone."

Indeed it is.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ♦



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Community college classes begin Aug. 22

From event management and filmmaking to learning how to manufacture guitars, an array of new degrees, certificates and programs await students when the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) 2016-17 academic year begins Aug. 22.

SDCCD offers courses at San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar colleges, along with San Diego Continuing Education.

Many of the programs were developed in collaboration with local industry and are aimed at meeting employer demands. "A key component of the San Diego Community College District's mission is in workforce development, as we play a major role in growing the regional economy," SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said.

City College

City College has incorporated a variety of disciplines into new Manufacturing Engineering Technology (MFET) courses that will provide students with the skills to build their own electric guitars. The first course, MFET 101, introduces the disciplines necessary for safely designing and building quality products using lean processes, which eliminate waste. The second course, MFET 107, guides students in applying their new knowledge to design and build a custom-made guitar. The program is aimed at helping students to become highly skilled manufacturing engineering technicians.

"We're really excited about these guitar-building classes, as they provide yet another way for us to differentiate City College as a forward-thinking and innovative institution," Interim President Denise S. Whisenhunt said. "No other STEM classes end up in a jam session."

Other new programs at City College include a Certificate of Achievement in Broadcast News, a Certificate of Performance as a Nail Technician in the Cosmetology Program, and an Associate of Science Degree in Documentary Filmmaking.

Here is a list of new programs at City College:

- Advanced Arts Entrepreneurship (Certificate of Performance)
- Arts Entrepreneurship (Certificate of Performance)
- Sports Management (Certificate of Performance)
- VITA Tax Preparation Training (Certificate of Performance)
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation (Certificate of Achievement)
- Nail Technician (Certificate of Performance)
- Broadcast News (Certificate of Achievement)
- Documentary Film (Associate of Science)
- Media Management and Marketing (Certificate of Achievement)

As the second-largest of California's 72 community college districts, the SDCCD serves about 100,000 students annually through its three two-year colleges and San Diego Continuing Education. The three colleges offer associate degrees and certificates in occupational programs that prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and entry-level jobs. ❖



Fire Station No. 5, located at 4311 Ninth Ave., opened in August 1951 and will be demolished soon and replaced with a new facility. (Photo from Uptown News archives)

FROM PAGE 1 FIRE STATION

for the station had to be moved to a new location on Third Avenue, near Bachman Place.

"Once the crew moves into the temporary facility, there will be no interruption in service during construction of the new fire station," states a fact sheet issued by the city's Public Works Department.

Councilmember Todd Gloria told San Diego Uptown News that he is excited to see the project back on track.

"The project to replace Fire Station No. 5 in Hillcrest is a critical step towards enhancing public safety and improving emergency response times for the residents in my council

district," Gloria said. "Though I am frustrated by the delays, I am proud we stayed focused to get this improvement done for my constituents and that work will begin before the end of the year."

Renowned San Diego architect Rob Quigley, creator of the domed San Diego Central Library and the New Children's Museum, has designed the new fire station. Quigley is also the architect for the Ocean Discovery Institute in City Heights, being built for students in the San Diego Unified School District.

The new firehouse, projected to cost \$9 million, will total 10,731 square feet. It will be a two-story structure that will include two and a half apparatus bays and nine dormitory rooms. The bays will have capacity for one engine, one ladder truck and one battalion chief vehicle. The

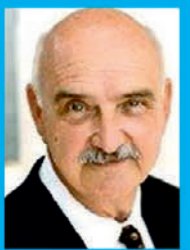
dormitories will provide sleeping quarters for one battalion chief, two captains and six firefighters.

"Extensive daylight design strategies will minimize electrical use in the building," according to a fact sheet provided by Quigley.

"Light tubes and skylights will naturally illuminate the hallways, stairs and equipment bays. Clear glass will be used at the first story entry way watch room to avoid the 'nobody home' personality of the first station."

Construction on the new fire station is estimated to take 18 to 24 months, according to Monica Munoz, senior public information officer with the Public Works Department.

—Catherine Spearnak is a San Diego-based freelance writer. She can be reached at catherine.spearnak1@gmail.com. ❖



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FROM PAGE 1
ARTISTS

sculptures that celebrate San Diego, is the brainchild of gallery owner Kate Ashton.

"It's exciting, what people are inspired by," Ashton said. "Some are moved by the desert. Many are moved by the ocean — its gorgeous, rhythmic blues. The buildings in Balboa Park are just iconic — iconic San Diego, right there. Some artists are painting the sunsets at the cliffs. There's a rich vibrant orange abstract in the show — that's a sunset at Ocean Beach. Some are coming in with paintings of bungalows. It goes across the spectrum, and I wanted it to."

Ashton's hope has turned into a visual stroll through the region's eclectic aesthetic. Coastal abstracts, surreal tree-shaded lanes, cactus and other flora; each artwork reflects a participating artist's vision of San Diego, of a captured scene, a fleeting moment.

One particular North Park bungalow made its way into a watercolor by Thia Nevius. Titled "Cottage," the lighthearted painting's subject, with its inviting red-tiled roof and turquoise window frames, might be found in neighborhoods throughout the Uptown and Mid-City areas.

"All artists are painting biographies of their lives," Ashton said. "They're painting how something looks to them, how it feels to them. How they live it."

Stieber, before pursuing the artist's life in her hometown, studied at Boston University and



"Local Inspiration" exhibit

Through Sept. 3
Hours vary
The Ashton Gallery
4434 30th St.
ashtonartgallery.com
sarahstieber.com



(Clockwise from bottom left) Gallery window; "Cottage" by Thia Nevius; exterior of the Art of 30th building (Courtesy of Art on 30th)

in Venice, Italy. But wherever she went, she was pegged to San Diego.

"Everyone's immediate reac-

tion to the work, was 'Oh, that's so Southern California,'" Stieber explained. "It would almost piss me off, because it was people who

didn't know I was from here, but I guess my upbringing and my aesthetic showed through. My work had traces of Southern California

in it, and I couldn't remove that. I was getting that response so often that, when I graduated, I knew I needed to come back and examine the things that inspired me."

Stieber has found a home in North Park for her studio, in one of the private artist spaces offered at Art on 30th, and a home for many of her paintings. In addition to private collections, she has pieces in the Marriott's Downtown and Oceanside hotels. And her work is continuing to evolve in the land of her birth.

"I think that growing up in San Diego and living here and painting here now, I feel like there's been a little bit of a shift in my experience of it. As a teenager, I was responding to high school, and that does sometimes have that artificial feel, and that's what my art was about. Now that I'm back here, in North Park, my view of San Diego has shifted. I love the community. I live in North Park. I feel very close with the shop owners. It has a very different feel. Now it's very self-expressive."

And self-expression San Diego style is the foundation of the "Local Inspiration" exhibit.

—Kit-Bacon Gressitt writes commentary and essays on her blog, "Excuse Me, I'm Writing," and has been published by *The Missing Slate*, *Ms. Magazine* blog and *Trivia: Voice of Feminism*, among others. She formerly wrote for the *North County Times*. She also hosts *Fallbrook's monthly Writers Read authors series* and open mic, and can be reached at kbgressitt@gmail.com. ❖

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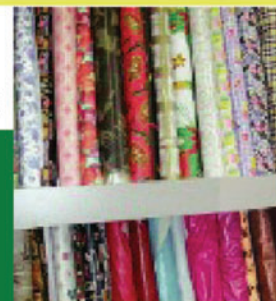


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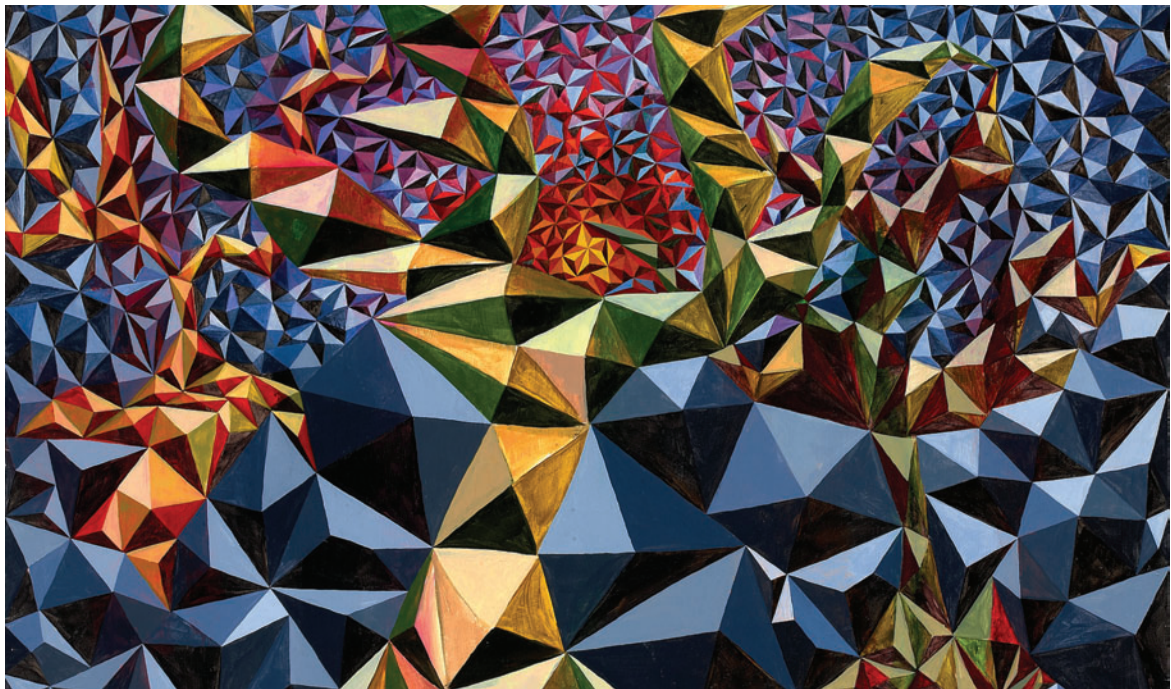
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James Yuransky, an artist from Normal Heights, uses a geometric Z-axis projecting from the canvas plane. Above is his piece titled "Trees." (Courtesy of the artist)

ArtWalk sports a taste of Uptown

By Margie M. Palmer

Four prominent Uptown artists will be adding their unique flair to the 11th annual ArtWalk @ Liberty Station.

Kate Ashton of Hillcrest, Gregory Bada of City Heights, Michael Carini of Old Town and James Yuransky of Normal Heights will be a part of the family-friendly event that will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13-14, at Ingram Plaza in Liberty Station.

Ashton is probably best-known locally as the proprietor of Art on 30th, a community art space in the epicenter of North Park's arts district that is comprised of galleries, studios and class space.

The painter, who said she is always and only painting the autobiography of her life as an artist, will be showing new abstract works that she is finishing.

"When I show up at my easel, I look for the colors that look good to me on that particular day, just like going to our closet and looking for a certain piece of clothing that feels good to wear on a particular day," she said. "Expect to see unique color combinations in my newest works ... fresh and previously untapped."

Bada's medium of choice is printmaking. His deep love of drawing, he said, is what attracted him to the genre.

"When creating my pieces, whether it's engraving or etching, you literally are seeing the direct result of my hand. To me there is a certain raw vulnerability in this and printmaking allowed me to take this love for drawing to another artistic level," he said. "Printmaking is very process-heavy as there are many, many steps you must take to get the finished image. I like to call printmaking part drawing, part blacksmithing and part self-punishment."

A lot can go wrong along the way, he added, but he finds the spontaneous uncertainty to be exhilarating.

"I find the work meditative, the journey rewarding and the level of detail you can achieve highly satisfying."

Carini, a Point Loma native, describes his style as "acrylic alchemy," a transformation of the soul.

"It is about harnessing all of the pain and struggles of your life and utilizing them as a sacri-



(left) "Bride" by Greg Bada of City Heights and "As the Caged Bird Sings" by Michael Carini of Old Town. (Courtesy of the artists)

ArtWalk @ Liberty Station

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13-14
Liberty Station's Ingram Plaza

2645 Historic Decatur Road

10 a.m. — 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13

10 a.m. — 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14

Admission: free

artwalksandiego.org/libertystation

fice of equivalent exchange in the transmutation and/or creation of something beautiful and positive," he said. "It is about hope, growth and love."

The painter said he's most inspired by "the hope of having hope when it feels as if all hope is lost." He also looks at the creative process as a dance, song or dialogue, with both he and the painting working together until the dance ends, the music stops or the conversation ceases.

"Painting is my vessel of communication, and the only way in which I feel I can truly communicate with the world around me ... a world I don't fully understand," he said. "I am never fully controlled, though I am never fully in control either. The painting and I are partners. It is a relationship of balance."

Yuransky, a self-described Zedist, will also have works on display. He'll also be doing an interactive piece that will use small, multi-sided geometric objects people will paint, to create a larger 3D work.

He coined the term Zedism to describe his unique style, he said, adding his works are distinguished by both the use of a geometrical Z-axis projecting from the canvas plane and the incorporation of imagery within that projection.

"Doing a live painting with others is a direct connection into the human creative process. It taps into something very primal; sharing, community, building, improving, beautifying our world — these things make us feel more secure, connected and valuable to our community," he said, adding that the 16-by-4-foot mural will be painted with the help of volunteers "and a hopefully a steady stream of Artwalk @ Liberty Station attendees."

—Margie M. Palmer is a San Diego-based freelance writer who has been racking up bylines in a myriad of news publications for the past 10 years. You can reach her at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu.



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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS



[manhandled]

Through Sunday, Aug. 14

A few performances remain for this dance program by choreographer Michael Mizerany's company Compulsion Dance & Theatre at Diversionary Theater (4545 Park Blvd., #101, University Heights). The piece was inspired by people watching in airports and features a new duet, two critically acclaimed works and a piece by guest artist Bradley R. Lundberg. Visit diversionary.org/manhandled for tickets and showtimes.

Meeting of Balboa Park Rose Garden volunteers

Tuesday, Aug. 16

A monthly meeting for volunteers of the Balboa Park Rose Garden (2125 Park Blvd.) to share information and direct work needed. Volunteers (novice or experienced) are needed to join the Rose Garden Corps. Volunteer days are Tuesday and Thursday preferably weekly for 2 – 3 hours. The meeting is at 9:15 a.m. Email bprosegardencorps@gmail.com for more information.

'Bikes on Tap'

Thursday, Aug. 18

This monthly bike-in happy hour by the San Diego County Bike Coalition features a different brewery or winery each month and showcases a different San Diego County neighborhood. This month riders will roll into Vinavanti Urban Winery (1477 University Ave., Hillcrest) at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Uptown Bikeway project recently approved by SANDAG. Vinavanti will donate a percentage of sales to the San Diego County Bike Coalition as part of their own "Sip 'N' Support" monthly event. Visit sdbikecoalition.org for more information.

Betty Bryant in 'Something Cool'

Thursday, Aug. 18

Blues, jazz and cabaret artist Betty Bryant returns to Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest). Known as Cool Miss B, she'll be showcasing her piano and singing talents performing blues, jazz and original numbers. Doors open at 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for reserved seating with \$15 food/drink minimum. Visit martinisabovefourth.com.

'Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People: A History of Citizen Science'

Opens Saturday, Aug. 20

This new permanent exhibit at the San Diego Natural History Museum (1788 El Prado, Balboa Park) opens today featuring rare books, art, photographs and historical documents from the library's collection. The items pay homage to the "past, present and future of citizen science." Visit sdnhm.org for more information.



Impossible Science Festival

Saturday, Aug. 20 – Sunday, Aug. 21

This two-day festival at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center (1875 El Prado, Balboa Park) will be a hands-on, interactive event that explores the science behind the seemingly impossible. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn how to turn objects invisible, explore levitation, play with the science of mind control, discover impossible figures and other amazing feats of science. The festival will be hosted by Jason Latimer, the Fleet's Curator of Impossible Science from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Fleet theater lobby. Visit rhfleet.org for more information.

'Go For Launch!'

Monday, Aug. 22 – Wednesday, Aug. 24

This space-inspired science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) event will be held from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. for three days at the San Diego Air and Space Museum (2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park). "Go For Launch" is presented by nonprofit Higher Orbits, which works to inspire kids using mankind's journey into space. Over the course of the event, students will be immersed in "the wonder of spaceflight" with talks and hands-on activities. Former NASA astronaut Don Thomas and others will present during the event. Registration is \$250 per student and includes all supplies and snacks and meals. Visit bit.ly/2afVg4p for more information.



Celebrity Impersonator Michael Walters as Dame Edna in 'Something Like A Dame'

Wednesday, Aug. 24 – Thursday, Aug. 25

Celebrity impersonator Michael Walters returns to Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest) with a unique homage to Dame Edna featuring glittering gowns, outrageous comedy, musical numbers and more. Walters sold out two previous engagements at MA4. Doors open at 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating with \$15 food/drink minimum. Visit martinisabovefourth.com.

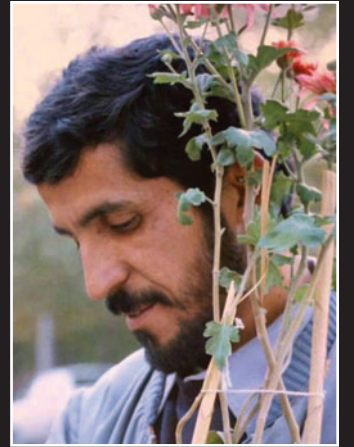
DIGITAL GYM GEMS



Aug. 12 – 18: The film "Swiss Army Man" tells the story of Hank (Paul Dano), a man trapped on a deserted island, who has given up on all hope of making it home. Things change when a corpse named Manny (Daniel Radcliffe) washes up on shore and leads Hank on an adventure. Rated R. 97 minutes



Aug. 19 – 25: Part of an on-going film series called "The Locals" celebrating San Diego filmmakers, this edition will feature "Amir." The film is about a young man coming to terms with adulthood in Tijuana, Mexico. Unrated. 88 minutes.



Aug. 19 – 25: "Close Up" by Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami is a 1990 fiction-documentary hybrid in which people from a real-life event play themselves. This screening is part of a new Digital Gym series called "The Authors." Unrated 98 minutes.

Visit DigitalGym.org for show times and tickets and information on additional films.

RECURRING EVENTS

Select dates:

Cinema Under the Stars: Films presented at an outdoor viewing space on various nights of the week. Upcoming films:

"Notting Hill" Friday, Aug. 12

"Indiscreet" Saturday, Aug. 13 and Sunday, Aug. 14

"Tootsie" Thursday, Aug. 18 and Friday, Aug. 19

"The African Queen" Saturday, Aug. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21

"Blazing Saddles" Thursday, Aug. 25 and Friday, Aug. 26

Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. For more info, visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

Mondays:

North Park Toastmasters meeting: 6:30 – 8 p.m., weekly meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3725 30th St., North Park. 8469. toastmastersclubs.org.

Open Mic Night: 7:30 p.m., the mic is open to you at Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Lestats.com.

Unsung Genius: 6:30 p.m., bi-weekly trivia hosted by Rafael Gaitan starting at 7 p.m.; \$2 to play; cash, bar tab and other prizes. Karaoke to follow at 9 p.m. on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

Tuesdays:

Curbside Bites: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curbsidebites.com.

Tasty Truck Tuesdays: 6 – 9 p.m., Smitty's Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. Sdfoodtrucks.com.

Uptown Democratic Club: 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except November and December). 3900 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.

Wednesdays:

Wednesday Night Experience: 7 – 8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. Universalspiritcenter.org

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdurotary.org.

North Park Thursday Market: 3 – 7 p.m., at 3000 North Park Way, between 30th Street and Granada Avenue, North Park

free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

Kornflower's Open Mic: Signups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7 – 10 p.m. Family-friendly event at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. RebeccascOFFEEHOUSE.com.

Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at Saint Paul's Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Libertytoastmasters.org.

Courage to Change – Al-Anon meetings: 7:15 – 8:15 p.m., a weekly meeting for friends and relatives of alcoholics at Christ United Presbyterian Church (in the chapel), 3025 Fir St., South Park.

2016 San Diego Film Series: 7:30 p.m., every third Thursday view a film representative of Italian cinema at the Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. Sandiegoitalianfilmfestival.com.

Fridays:

Memory Café: 10 – 11 a.m., second and fourth Fridays. Gathering place for those with memory loss, caretakers and those worried about memory problems in the Common Room at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. At-will donation. Memoryguides.org and Firstuusandiego.org.

Square Dancing Classes: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., every Friday. No previous dance experience needed. Recital Hall, 2130 Pan American Plaza. \$50 for 13 classes. 858-277-7499 or circulators.sdsda.org.

Saturdays

Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Also held on Sundays. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

Golden Hill Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill, free. Sdmarketmanager.com.

Comedy Heights: 8 – 10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twiggs Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd.; University Heights; free. Comedyheights.com.

Sundays

Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., under the Hillcrest Pride Flag, Harvey Milk and Normal streets, free. Hillcrestfarmersmarket.com.

Karaoke: 8 p.m., your chance to shine on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

To view local community organization meeting information online, visit: sduptownnews.com/community-organization-meetings.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdcnn.com. ❖

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Balboa Park brings back a historical 'movement'

By Alex Owens

Everything old ends up new again.

It's an old saying, but one with new meaning in Balboa Park, where a mode of transportation used in the park's early years is making a comeback.

It's called the "electricquette," and it's basically a battery-powered cart that looks a little like a wicker sled. They were a popular form of transportation during the 1915 - 17 Panama-California Exposition that put Balboa Park and San Diego on the map.

As times changed, however, the electricquettes faded away, making room for faster, more "high-tech" methods, like cars, trolleys, skateboards, bikes and roller blades to become the more popular transportation choices within the park. Skateboards and roller blades were eventually banned from the park.

But the electricquettes were not forgotten, thanks to numerous photos in the San Diego History Museum. Which is why a few history-appreciating San Diegans decided back in 2012 to bring them back.

Mike Kelly, president of The Committee of One Hundred, was one of those people. During initial planning for the park's centennial celebration, Kelly said that he and Welton Jones, another C100 board member, met with developer Sandor "Sandy" Shapery about a special project for Balboa Park.

"That one didn't pan out, but we brought up the possibility of resurrecting the electricquettes, which were a unique highlight of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition," Kelly said. "Fairgoers had their photos taken in electricquettes, feeding pigeons and sitting on their heads."

Kelly said Shapery "loved the idea" and got to work to make it happen.

"[Shapery] brought in David Marshall of Heritage Architecture to research the originals and build a prototype," said Kim Keeline, general manager of the Electricquette Motor Cart Company.

That prototype led to three,

which were each displayed in a different locale, such as the History Museum, the Automotive Museum and Lindbergh Field. Now the fleet is up to 24 and more than 2,000 people have rented the throwback carts since debuting this spring, from a kiosk near the Reuben H. Fleet Space Center.

Now the Electricquette Motor Cart Company is hosting a grand opening Aug. 14, with special extended hours (11 a.m. - 7 p.m.), people dressed in outfits similar to those worn back in the "teens," as well as prizes



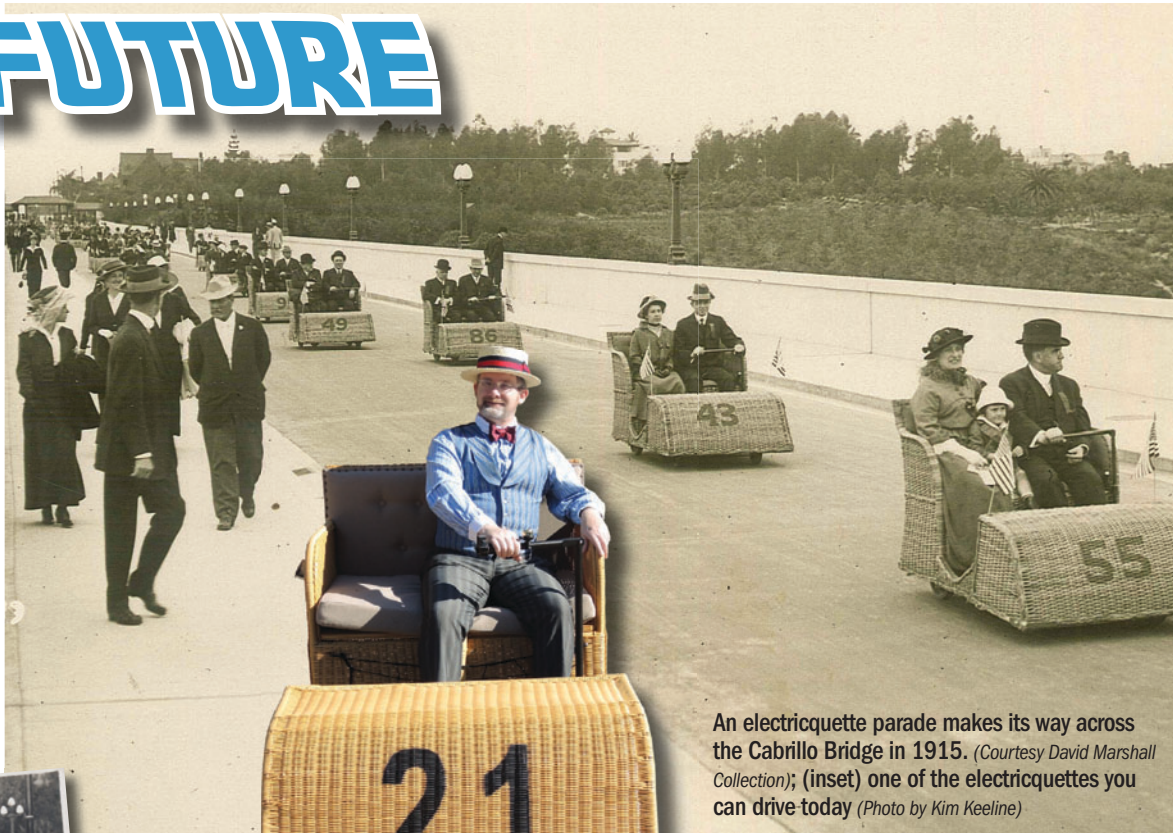
and other giveaways.

The electricquette can hold two adults and two children or up to 500 pounds. The price of riding a piece of history? Just \$15 for 30 minutes, \$25 for the first hour and \$10 per hour after that.

Before you plan a race with your friends, you should take note: The electricquettes only go 3.5 miles per hour and are only allowed on the sidewalk from the fountain near the R.H. Fleet Space Center down to the Plaza de Panama and over near the entrance to the Botanical Garden.

Also, they aren't 100 percent replicas of the carts that were used last century.

"We tried to keep it as authen-



An electricquette parade makes its way across the Cabrillo Bridge in 1915. (Courtesy David Marshall Collection); (inset) one of the electricquettes you can drive today (Photo by Kim Keeline)



The new electricquettes can hold up to 500 pounds and are allowed on the sidewalks alongside The Prado and near the entrance to the Botanical Garden. (Photo by Kim Keeline); a postcard from 1915 (Courtesy John Earl Collection, Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive)

tic as possible, but these electricquettes have storage nets and cup holders," she said. "And the battery technology is better. These can go all day on a single charge."

The electricquettes also have an advantage that no one could have known when the plan to

bring them back was initiated.

"They're really good for Pokemon Go," Keeline said, laughing. "At 3.5 mph, they are fast enough to chase the characters."

For more information on the electricquettes and the Aug. 14 grand opening launch of the fleet,

check out wickercarts.com, call 619-832-CART (2278) or email info@wickercarts.com.

—Alex Owens is a San Diego-based freelance writer. He can be reached at alexowenssd@gmail.com. ❖

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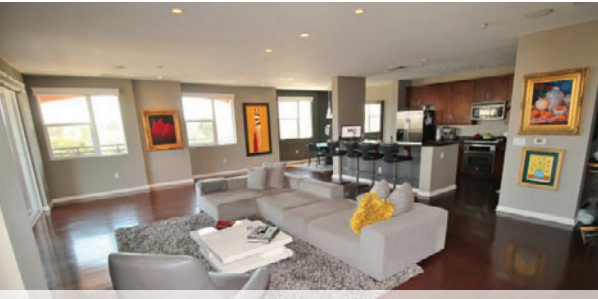


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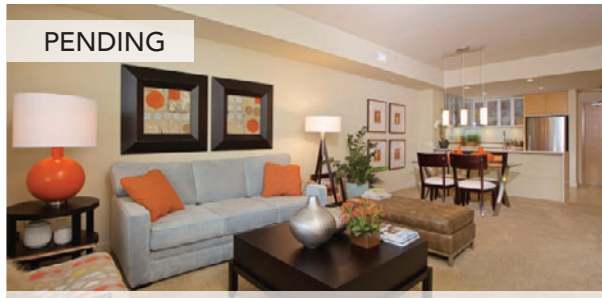


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